





## Both sides 'determined' to make progress on Cyprus — Clark

NICOSIA (AFP) — U.N. special envoy Joe Clark said Friday that both the Greek and Turkish-Cypriot leaders were "determined to make progress on a package of confidence-building measures for their divided island."

But a fire at a mosque on the Greek side of Nicosia — treated as arson by police — served as a reminder that there is opposition to the U.N. package.

"We have observed there is determination on both sides. There are still a few areas in which both parties need to come closer," Mr. Clark said after a second round of talks with Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

"On these issues, there will be consultations with the contribution of the ambassadors of the five permanent members" of the U.N. Security Council — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. Mr. Denktaş told reporters

that the main issues were the timetable for the reopening of Nicosia airport and the coastal resort of Varosha, as well as "the status of the U.N. administration" of both sides.

Both sides have accepted in principle the confidence-building measures (CBMs) aimed at breaking the 20-year deadlock on Cyprus.

Nicosia airport, closed since 1974, would be reopened under U.N. supervision and Varosha, a Greek suburb of the coastal town of Famagusta under Turkish control, would be transferred to U.N. administration for the Greeks to return.

After the first day of Mr. Clark's shuttle mission between Mr. Denktaş and President Glafkos Clerides, a Greek-Cypriot, the Cyprus Mail newspaper said: "So far, so good. Goodwill all around."

Mr. Denktaş warned Thursday that a breakthrough was not imminent. "We are all

working with goodwill and sincerity for a good result. So give us time," said the veteran Turkish-Cypriot leader.

At the medieval Bayraktar Mosque, a fire late Thursday damaged a wooden staircase and the ceiling, police said. The fire brigade was sent to the disused mosque by the capital's venetian walls after an anonymous telephone call.

"It must have been done to stop this exercise from getting on," said Mr. Denktaş, who was to travel to Ankara on Monday for a three-day working visit to discuss the CBMs.

"If there is going to be a balanced agreement suitable for both sides, this sort of thing cannot stop it."

Mr. Clark, whose mission ends Saturday when he flies to New York to brief on Secretary General Boutros Ghali, has said all key issues were being negotiated and maps were on the table.



THOUSANDS of civilians, like this family, fled the Afghan capital. Reports indicated Friday the factions were bracing for a new bout of battles (AFP photo)

## Kurtzer: Multilaterals embark on new phase

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The multilateral negotiating track of the Middle East peace process has moved into a new phase aimed at demonstrating to the peoples of the region that peace can have immediate benefits, according to a senior U.S. official.

Daniel Kurtzer, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, who led the United States delegation to last week's meeting of the multilateral steering group in Ottawa, outlined the action programme Feb. 16 at a State Department news briefing.

"While direct bilateral negotiations involving Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians are dealing with the core issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict — territory, peace and security — a complementary set of multilateral negotiations has been underway since early 1992 to address broader regional issues," Mr. Kurtzer explained.

After an initial period of what he called "familiarisation" and "educating the parties as to the depth and scope of the problems which they had agreed to address," Mr. Kurtzer said that as many as 13 Arab representatives joined with Israel and a number of parties from outside the region to address problems in five areas — regional economic development, refugees, arms control and regional security, the environment, and water resources.

During the last round of working group meetings, in October and November of last year, "several of the working groups actually formulated and began implementing concrete projects," Mr. Kurtzer said. Among these were a rainwater catchment project in Gaza, a mutual declaration on arms control and regional security, and other actions on environmental issues, wastewater treatment, and desertification.

"In other words, each of the groups began to focus on one or two specific projects that could be seen by peoples in the region as... potential fruits of peace... at a time when the core issues of the conflict were also being addressed," he said.

Last week's extraordinary session of the multilateral steering group in Ottawa decided on three issues designed to give even more impetus to this process.

At the urging of the regional parties, the multilateral steering group "will now take a much more active role in trying to increase the pace and the scope of the work of the working groups," Mr. Kurtzer said.

"Since there is a great deal of optimism that agreements will be signed and implemented between Israel and the Arabs over the next several years, the multilateral steering group decided to formulate guidelines that will help create an environment conducive to the implementation of agreements reached in the bilateral negotiations."

The steering group "has given urgency to the formulation of a set of regional developmental priorities," much like those undertaken 18 months ago with regard to the West Bank and Gaza. "We've decided to do the same thing now on a region-wide basis in order to stimulate economic development and more concrete projects on the part of the working groups," he said.

While conveying "a sense of movement on the part of the multilateral process," Mr. Kurtzer said he did not want to imply that the multilateral process was outstripping the pace of the bilateral peace negotiations.

"The bilateral negotiations remain at the core of resolving the Arab-Israeli dispute," he pointed out, noting that all the parties in the Middle East "insist that the core issues of this conflict be addressed before a more normal relationship develops among them."

"But as that relationship develops as a result of successes in the multilaterals, I think the multilaterals have now begun to move further and faster to begin addressing some of these concrete problems and again to create an environment in which implementation of agreements will make much more sense," he said.

Mr. Kurtzer acknowledged there have been problems. Since the beginning, Syria and Lebanon have chosen not to participate in the multilateral track of the peace process because they are concerned that track may get ahead of the bilateral peace negotiations.

The United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the peace process, have kept the Syrian and Lebanese governments "very closely informed of what we're doing in the multilaterals" over the past two years "and we have used every opportunity to try to encourage their participation," he said.

The continuing absence of Syria and Lebanon is "an inhibiting factor in trying to develop broad-scale regional planning," he said. "What we're trying to do is to make it attractive to Syria and Lebanon to participate where they see their own interests affected."

While the refugee issue "is perhaps one of the most sensitive political issues in the entire process," he said, the refugee working group has developed an agenda with seven action items on it, "one of which is called family reunification which all sides recognise is a means of beginning to address the aspirations of some Palestinians to return to homes that they may have left for whatever reasons."

The United States, which is shepherding the issue of training in both the refugee group and the economic development group, has already conducted a number of training missions for refugees, he said. "We're also trying to... make these self-sustaining programmes."

So far the working group has put off trying to agree on the numbers of refugees to be involved, he said, but has agreed to divide them into three groups — refugees from 1947-49, displaced persons or refugees from 1967, and those who have been displaced from their homes for other reasons as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The working group's definition of a refugee is "anybody displaced as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict," Mr. Kurtzer said, thus avoiding defining "some of the issues which only the parties, in their final status negotiations," will have to address. The working group has also decided that issues relating to repatriation are more appropriately going to be handled in the discussions on final status, he said.

The fact that the heads of delegations of the direct bilateral negotiations met in Washington a couple of weeks ago and then resumed their negotiations Feb. 15 "is a testament to the commitment of Syria and the other parties to continue this process," Mr. Kurtzer stressed.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Three Qatari fighters killed in Bosnia

DOHA (AFP) — Three Qatari volunteers have been killed fighting alongside the Bosnian Muslims against the Serbs, the Ministry of Islamic Affairs announced here Thursday. The ministry, quoted by the official QNA news agency, said the three — Ahmad Al Abdullah, Abdul Aziz Mohammed and Saad Ali — were buried as "martyrs" in Bosnia. A spokesman gave neither a place nor a date for their death, nor specified if other Qatari fighters were in the former Yugoslavia. Volunteers from Muslim countries have often been sighted on the battlefield in the ranks of the Muslim-led Bosnian government army, but it is unusual for Arab countries to confirm their presence.

### Kurdish deputies may face prosecution

ANKARA (AP) — A parliamentary commission on Thursday paved the way for parliament to allow prosecution of three Kurdish deputies accused of having ties with a separatist Kurdish guerrilla organisation. Serif Ercan, the head of the joint constitutional and judiciary commission, announced after a meeting that the commission decided to lift the parliamentary immunity of Leyla Zana, Orhan Dogan and Mahmut Alinak. The decision will be final if the 450-seat parliament approves it. When the vote might come was not known. Mr. Dogan also faces charges of providing shelter to Kurdish guerrillas in his parliamentary residence. The Kurdish guerrilla organisation, PKK, has been fighting for an autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984. There is a growing concern in the country about what will happen with local elections March 27 in the southeastern region. The Kurdish Democracy Party, DEP, which is believed to have close ties with the PKK, threatens to protest the elections if numbers of their candidates, jailed recently, are not allowed to run. Similarly a trial of the Kurdish deputies could escalate tensions in the region.

### Qadhafi puts Libya under Islamic law

TRIPOLI (AFP) — Libya introduced Islamic law on Thursday and said it would also switch to an Islamic "solar" calendar unique in the Muslim World. The new legislation will work on an "eye-for-an-eye" principle in cases of premeditated murder. Thieves will have their hands cut off and men and women caught committing adultery will be flogged. Drinking, making or possessing alcohol is banned and offenders will be fined and imprisoned. Alcohol consumption is already prohibited but the law was not always applied with rigour. Polygamy was legal in Libya but from now on a husband will have to get permission in court from his first wife if he wishes to take another wife. Libya has also decided to adopt a solar calendar starting from the birth of the Prophet Muhammad in 571. This would put the country in the year 1423. The rest of the Muslim World uses a lunar calendar beginning in 622 the year of the Hijra when the Prophet fled Mecca to Medina to escape persecution. It is 1414 in other Muslim countries. For the first time since Colonel Muammar Qadhafi came to power in 1969, Islamic preachers or imams will be permitted to issue "fatwas" or religious decrees. When Col. Qadhafi seized power he abolished the post of mufti, the country's highest religious authority. In recent months Col. Qadhafi has called for stricter application of Islamic law while at the same time being fiercely critical of Islamic fundamentalist activists in the Arab World.

### BBC correspondent ordered out of Tunisia

LONDON (AFP) The BBC World Service has protested against the expulsion from Tunisia of its resident correspondent in Tunis, saying it would review its coverage of Tunisia and northern Africa, as a result. The BBC said the press accreditation of correspondent Alfred Hermina had been withdrawn, and he had been ordered to leave Tunisia by Friday. "The Tunisian authorities have given no reason for Mr. Hermina's expulsion: in spite of requests from the BBC," said World Service News Editor Bob Robbins. "The BBC has total confidence in him. He is a highly professional correspondent who has shown great energy and commitment in his reporting of North Africa."

### UAE in drive to protect fish

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is taking measures to protect its fish as part of a campaign to repair ecological damage caused by oil spills and fishing abuses. Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Said Al Ragbani outlined measures to streamline the fishing sector, at a meeting earlier this week of the federal national council, the appointed parliament. Mr. Ragbani was questioned about the ministry's plans to end abuses by fishermen. "We are drafting a federal law on the exploitation, development and protection of the fish wealth in the UAE," he said. "We have presented the law to the authorities concerned to seek their opinion." Mr. Ragbani gave no details of the draft law but most of the UAE's seven emirates already ban fishing nets that kill small fish and damage the sea bed and mangroves. Catching turtles is also strictly banned in all the emirates.

### Russian officer killed near Afghan border

DUSHANBE (AFP) — A Russian officer with the frontier guard stationed in Tajikistan was found dead near the border with Afghanistan on Friday, the head of the Russian border guards said here. The officer had set out the previous day from Pyandzh with three members of the Tajik security forces, but there was no sign of them when the officer's body and car were located, the sources said. The Tajik security ministry for its part reported that four members of its security forces were killed and three wounded in an overnight ambush in the same region by 15 unidentified armed men. Armed Islamic groups opposed to the neo-communist regime here mount raids across the border from Afghanistan.

## Algerian exiles arranged arms shipment — reports

ALGIERS (AP) — Exiled Islamic fundamentalists organised an arms shipment seized aboard an Algerian freighter bound from Germany, local news media reported.

The weapons were apparently bound for Islamic insurgents whose two-year campaign to overthrow the military-backed government has claimed 3,000 lives.

Algerian newspapers reported that members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and other fundamentalists, living for the most part in Germany, arranged the arms shipment.

It marked the first time that a shipment of weapons from Europe bound for the insurgents has been seized and publicly reported.

Authorities found 20 hunting rifles, 15 pistols, telecommunications equipment and binoculars on board the ship, the media reported Wednesday.

The Algerian captain was arrested.

The seizure is certain to bolster government demands for European countries to crack down on exiled fundamentalists, whom it claims are running a terrorist support network.

Germany recently warned Rabah Kebir, the leading exiled FIS spokesman, to stop making statements that appeared to support terrorism. France has charged three fundamentalists with terrorism conspiracy.

According to Algerian press reports, citing security sources, the ship left Hamburg and stopped in the Belgian port of Antwerp before going on to Algiers.

There was no word on when it arrived in the Algerian capital or when the seizure was made. The government has not officially confirmed the reports.

## Libya lashes Maghreb union

CAIRO (AP) — Libya has lashed out at the Arab Maghreb Union for failing to help end the international boycott against Libya over the Pan Am 103 case.

Libyan Television, in a statement Thursday, the fifth anniversary of the formation of the economic cooperation union, said the union has achieved nothing.

"Five years after its creation, the treaty of this union has remained mere ink on paper... because it has not served the Arab people in this region," the television said. "Suffice it to say that this union was incapable of holding a meeting and was unable to lift an unfair embargo imposed on a member state."

The broadcast was monitored by the BBC in London. The union links Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania in co-operation agreements as a step towards comprehensive Arab unity. But bureaucratic tangles and regional rivalries have kept it from becoming a viable network.

The criticism came a day after a televised statement by Libya Leader Muammar Qadhafi saying the two Libyans wanted in the Pan Am 103 case can be tried in the United States or Britain but only by a Muslim court.

"Should there be a court like this," Colonel Qadhafi said on Libyan Television. "We will not mind if they are given capital punishment."

The Libyan suspects, alleged to be agents of Col. Qadhafi's intelligence services, are accused of planting a bomb aboard a Pan Am jet in December 1988 that sent it crashing into Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

To force Libya to surrender the men to the United States or Britain, the United Nations imposed air, arms and diplomatic sanctions in April 1992. They were tightened last December to include an embargo on most oil equipment and a freeze on overseas funds.

Col. Qadhafi has adamantly refused to surrender the men to the United States or Britain. His offers of an international trial or trial in a neutral country have satisfied neither the Americans nor the British.

## Feuding Iraqi Kurds sign peace agreement

ANKARA (R) — An Iraqi Kurdish guerrilla faction has signed a peace pact with its Muslim militant rivals several weeks after clashes which killed at least 200 people.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the Islamic Movement of Iraqi Kurdistan (IMK) signed the accord Thursday at the headquarters of the opposition Iraqi National Congress (INC) in the northern Iraqi town of Salahuddin, the INC said.

PUK forces led by Jalal Talabani launched an all-out assault on the Islamic militants in December after months of friction and minor clashes. They overran most of the IMK's party offices and captured its leader, Sheikh Othman Abdul Aziz.

Kurdish sources say at least 200 people were killed, some in cold blood, in the bitter fighting which engulfed many of the eastern parts of northern Iraq in December.

Under pressure from its main partner in the Iraqi Kurdish regional government, the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the PUK handed Sheikh Othman over to KDP leader Massoud Barzani.

The peace pact was signed by Barzani, INC President Ahmad Chalabi and Fleih Samara'i, head of a Saudi-backed Iraqi delegation, as well as Mr. Talabani and Sheikh Othman.

The agreement calls for an end to fighting, respect for the authority of the regional government and parliament, support for democracy, the release of prisoners and the participation of the IMK in the regional government, which is to start subsidising the IMK as it does other parties in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The INC, in a report published by its publicity arm, the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, said the accord marked the first time the fundamentalist IMK had committed itself to democracy.

Kurdish sources in Ankara said the IMK would not be allowed to reestablish its armed militia, but would be able to post lightly-armed guards at its reopened offices.

The Iranian-based Shiite Muslim opposition group known as the Supreme Court for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, Turkey's Muslim-based Welfare Party, the Saudi-based delegation, the KDP and INC had helped in mediation efforts, the sources said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Les Aventuriers De L'Espace  
17:40 L'Ecole Des Fais  
18:30 Boucanor  
19:00 News in French  
19:15 Ushuaia  
19:30 News in Hebrew  
20:30 News in Arabic  
21:30 The End Of A Brave Man  
22:00 Family Matters  
22:30 News in English  
22:50 Feature Film: "A Killer Who Sinned"

#### PRAYER TIMES

04:56 Fajr  
06:13 (Sunrise) Duha  
11:59 Dhuhur  
14:57 'Asr  
17:26 Maghrib  
18:42 'Isha

#### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatish, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 627285  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 627491  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terzian Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823024, 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

#### WEATHER

It will be sunny, moderate, with clouds appearing at different altitudes and winds becoming southeasterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and sea calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 3 / 16  
Aqaba 9 / 22  
Doebs 0 / 16  
Jordan Valley 8 / 21

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:  
Dr. Nidal Al Dahish 827195  
Dr. Bassam Karadshih 759200  
Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam 736072  
Dr. Yousef Al Faqih 759988  
Firas pharmacy 661912  
Ferdous pharmacy 773336  
Al Asena pharmacy 637055  
Najmoudi pharmacy 623472  
Al Salam pharmacy 637020  
Yacoub pharmacy 649495  
Shmiesani pharmacy 637660  
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:  
Dr. Ali Al Omari 772032  
Al Ouds Pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:  
Dr. Taraz Hijwaji 985445  
Khalil pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate 75121  
Highway Police 845402  
Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency 199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777  
Fire Brigade 891228  
Blood Bank 775121  
Traffic Police 846390  
Public Security Department 630321  
Hotel Complaints 615800  
Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 810230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electric Authority 815615  
Electric Power 636381

Company RJ Flight Information 18-53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 04-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hasein Medical Centre 813819/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 642816  
Alkhali Maternity, J. Amn 642412  
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman 636140  
Palestine Shmiesani 6641714  
Shmiesani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Musader Hospital 6672779  
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737  
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126  
Army, Marka 8916115  
Queen Alia Hospital 66224040  
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (19)983223  
Zarqa National Hospital (19)989560  
The Sinu Hospital (19)98732  
Al-Hitma Modern Hospital (19) 98990

IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275  
The Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	From	Time	From
05:50	Jakarta, Singapore (RJ)	09:25	New Delhi (RJ)
06:25	Amman (RJ)	09:25	Amman (RJ)
06:50	Amman (RJ)	09:50	Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
07:00	Amman (RJ)	10:00	Colombo (RJ)
07:30	Amman (RJ)	10:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:00	Amman (RJ)	10:45	Amman (RJ)
08:15	London, Berlin (RJ)	10:50	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)

#### DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

Time	To	Time	To
06:00	Beirut (RJ)	09:00	Aqaba (RJ)
06:30	Aqaba (RJ)	11:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
07:00	Jeddah (RJ)	11:30	Jeddah (add) (RJ)
07:30	Paris, Brussels (RJ)	11:45	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
08:00	Cairo (RJ)	12:05	London (RJ)
08:15	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	12:30	Jeddah (RJ)
08:30	Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)	21:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Time	To	Time	To
04:20	Vienna (QA)	16:30	Sana'a (Y)
04:30	Sana'a (Y)	17:35	Rome (AZ)
04:45	Dubai (EM)	18:45	Dubai (EM)
05:15	Paris, Damascus (AF)	22:10	Amsterdam (KL)
05:35	Cairo (MS)		

#### HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman	Arr. Damascus	Dep. Amman	Arr. Damascus
8:00 a.m. every Monday	5:00 p.m. every Monday	7:30 a.m. every Sunday	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	550 / 650
Banana	600 / 680
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	70 / 40
Carrot	200 / 120
Cauliflower	140 / 80
Clementine	260 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 120
Cucumbers (small)	380 / 280
Eggplant	170 / 80
Garlic	220 / 120
Grape Fruit	900 / 800
Green beans	120 / 80
Lemon	180 / 120
Marrow (large)	180 / 120
Marrow (small)	300 / 200
Olives (green)	700 / 500
Onion (dry)	470 / 120
Onion (green)	220 / 150
Pepper (hot)	380 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	340 / 260
Potato	250 / 180
Radish	120 / 80
Tomato	220 / 200
Spinach	150 / 70
String beans	800 / 650

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Price Complaints 661176  
Water and Sewerage 897467  
Complaints 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121  
Overseas Calls 810230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101  
Jordan Television 773111  
Radio Jordan 774111  
Water Authority 680100  
Jordan Electric Authority 815615  
Electric Power 636381

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04:45	Dubai (EM)	18:45	Dubai (EM)
05:15	Paris, Damascus (AF)	22:10	Amsterdam (KL)
05:35	Cairo (MS)		

#### HUAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman	Arr. Damascus	Dep. Amman	Arr. Damascus
8:00 a.m. every Monday	5:00 p.m. every Monday	7:30 a.m. every Sunday	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

#### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	550 / 650
Banana	600 / 680
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	70 / 40
Carrot	200 / 120
Cauliflower	140 / 80
Clementine	260 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 120
Cucumbers (small)	380 / 280
Eggplant	170 / 80
Garlic	220 / 120
Grape Fruit	900 / 800
Green beans	







## Jordan Times

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## Rhetoric, all the same

LATE LAST week a group of seventy-five people announced the formation of a "committee to resist submission and normalisation." The committee's main task, the group said in a statement, would be to prevent the peace process from culminating in normalisation of relations with Israel.

We cannot quarrel with any group of people who wish to voice their concern about the prospects and direction of peace in the area. It is common knowledge that waging peace is just as difficult as engaging in war activities, and the process would normally entail deep division in the ranks of the peoples affected by it. Just as the Israelis have of late witnessed an upsurge in extremism in opposition to the implications of the ongoing efforts for peace in the region, it is likewise natural that the Arab side would develop strong pockets of resistance to the new political, economic and security conditions that peace could bring. After generations of animosity and hostility between the Arabs and the Israelis, it should not be unexpected that a change in the geopolitical climate in the region would cause tremors on the two sides.

Still, one would have wished that the opposition forces to peace between the warring parties in the Middle East on both sides of the fence channelled their energies into more constructive directions by offering viable alternatives to current peace efforts. On the Israeli side, the ultra nationalists and the right would have nothing to do with trading land for peace or with the recognition of the Palestinians as people with legitimate rights and aspirations. Their extremist position is for all intents and purposes a prescription for the continuation of the past five decades of warfare and suffering. In other words, such Israelis would rather commit their people to a perpetual cycle of violence and insecurity for decades to come, if not centuries, than invest in peace that would offer the Arab side, the Palestinians included, its legitimate rights and its people an opportunity to lead a normal life. In this sense, there is an uncanny meeting of minds between Israeli hardliners and those Arabs who also do not want to give peace a chance. The hardliners on both sides would thus resist and fight without offering anything beyond what the Palestinians and other Arab parties have been hearing and experimenting since the inception of the Palestinian conflict.

The sterile perspective presented by hardliners and the bankruptcy of their views have emerged from the events of the last fifty or more years in Middle Eastern history. Since the utility or futility of any policy decision can best be gauged by its results, the consequences of the line of thinking presented by the group of seventy five are only too well known to the public to deserve an additional comment. We just have to say that if some of us, few as they may be, can sit and wait for miracles to happen to salvage us and our cause, it is doubtful our people and country can afford the same luxury all the time.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AT RA'I Arabic daily Friday cast doubt on the so-called preparations by NATO forces to stem Serbian attacks on Muslims in Sarajevo and other parts of Bosnia. The ultimatum given to the Serbs to end their fighting is a mere attempt to mislead the world and once the deadline for the Serbs to pull out their guns ends, the attackers would resume their aggression on the city of Sarajevo indifferent to the NATO threats, said the paper. Saying that David Owen, the European mediator, is failing in his mission since his arrival in the former Yugoslavia, the paper said that Lord Owen has been himself not with forcing the Serbs to stop their attacks, their killing of innocent Muslims and the raping of Muslim women, but rather with means of covering up for the Serbs' aggression. The Europeans, who claim to be Christians, are now bent on annihilating the Muslim people of Europe not for the benefit of Christianity, but rather for selfish interests and a colonialist purpose. The same Europeans said the paper have been bent on killing both the Christians and the Muslims in Iraq and maintaining a siege on the Iraqi sick and wounded, charged the daily. The paper said that, regrettably, the Arab regimes are continually closing their ears to the cries of the children and women in Bosnia and Iraq and are busying themselves with reconciliation efforts with the Israelis. It said that under the so-called new world order, the leaders of the colonial powers are employing a formidable machinery to destroy what is left of Christianity, transforming it into a tool in the hands of criminals who continue, to carry out their vendetta against the other nations of the world.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Cairo deal brings dismay to Palestinians

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE AGREEMENT that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres produced in Cairo on Feb. 9 has predictably drawn dismay among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the East Bank. Expectations that the shape of the interim arrangement for Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories would be the forerunner of eventual Palestinian independence have suffered a serious blow even among the born-optimists and those who tend to see the proverbial half-full side of the glass.

For starters, the Cairo deal effectively consolidates, if not legitimises, the Israeli grip on the occupied territories. For all practical purposes, it leaves no sign of the Palestinian right to sovereignty in their land. Indeed, the Palestinians are allowed to raise their flag at the border posts. But then so were the Vichy regime under the Germans and Antoine Lahad under Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. But were they symbols of independence or subservience?

Granted, the "final status" of the occupied territories is to be negotiated in three years from now, and, technically speaking, the ground is open for the Palestinians to secure their legitimate territorial and political rights through negotiations, regardless of the shape of the interim arrangement. But, before we get into the business of "final status" negotiations, it seems that the Israelis are hell-bent on retaining "sovereignty" and diluting the Palestinian quest for statehood as much as possible.

The writing is on the wall. Indications to the man on the street in Jordan are that the so-called Gaza-Jericho agreement could turn out to be the "final status" rather than an "interim" arrangement.

Proclamations by Israeli politicians from the Labour Party that the negotiations would inevitably lead to the creation of a Palestinian state are nothing but diversionary tactics and are not worth even the paper that carried the reports.

The unanswered questions point to a predetermined Israeli rejection of the Palestinians' legitimate national and political rights, not to mention an independent Palestinian state. These include: If indeed the entire occupied territories are to be placed under Palestinian self-rule for five years pending a "final status" solution, why then the haggling now over a few dozen square kilometres of land?

We have often heard the term "progressive autonomy" from both sides, indicating that major towns and cities in the West Bank would be turned over to Palestinian control in a matter of months after the self-rule arrangement is put in place. Why then going to the extremes in refusing to accept a logical size of area where autonomy could take off in the first place?

place?

Similarly, if the Palestinians are supposed to assume full control over their affairs, barring external security, why then is the Israeli insistence on retaining a veto over who enters and leaves the occupied lands?

After all, is it not in the interest of the Palestinian self-rule authority to maintain law and order in the areas under its control and not allow anyone to endanger the autonomy arrangement through staging incidents that could be construed as "security threats" by the Israelis and scramble the peace deal?

Again, why the dispute over the size of the police force? Even in an optimum scenario, the total number of Palestinian policemen and family members who would enter the occupied territories is 25,000. Why should the Israelis get alarmed over that number, given the fact that it represents only 0.5 per cent of the over four million Palestinians living in the diaspora?

**"The PLO leadership, which boasts of having a strong 'constituency' in Jordan, has to take into consideration that the Kingdom has a concern beyond the immediate relationship of one Arab party supporting another's decisions and moves in the context of peace negotiations with a common enemy."**

That, said however, there is no questioning of the fact that agreements to these arrangements were given or are in the process of being given by the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian People, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). As such, Jordan does not challenge the decision, particularly that the Cairo agreement has been proclaimed by our own strategists as having "calculated" the January accord on security aspects signed by the Kingdom and the PLO.

As far as relations between two entities are concerned, the PLO could not ask for more than Jordan has given in terms of support for the Sept. 13 accord despite its reservations and the Kingdom's international moves in support of the Palestinian struggle in their negotiations with Israel.

Jordanian complaints that the level of the PLO's coordination with the Kingdom was not of a level that meets the challenges of the day stemmed from several aspects:

Jordan, as a sovereign and independent country, has its own national concerns and it would refuse to be a party to any agreement in which it has to play a role dictated by parties which did not get its approval. There is no doubt that this message is clearly understood but not acted upon by the PLO leadership.

The two-day Jordan-PLO meeting in Amman last week appeared to have gone a considerable way in clearing the air, as Jordanian officials have affirmed. Joint committees have been revived, and the focus is on specific arrangements that would be put into place during the interim Palestinian self-rule period. Hopefully, the PLO side is sincere in its undertakings with Jordan and we would see more of coordination in a manner that strengthens both sides in their respective negotiations with Israel as well as the multilateral talks aimed at creating an atmosphere where peace agreements and treaties would hold.

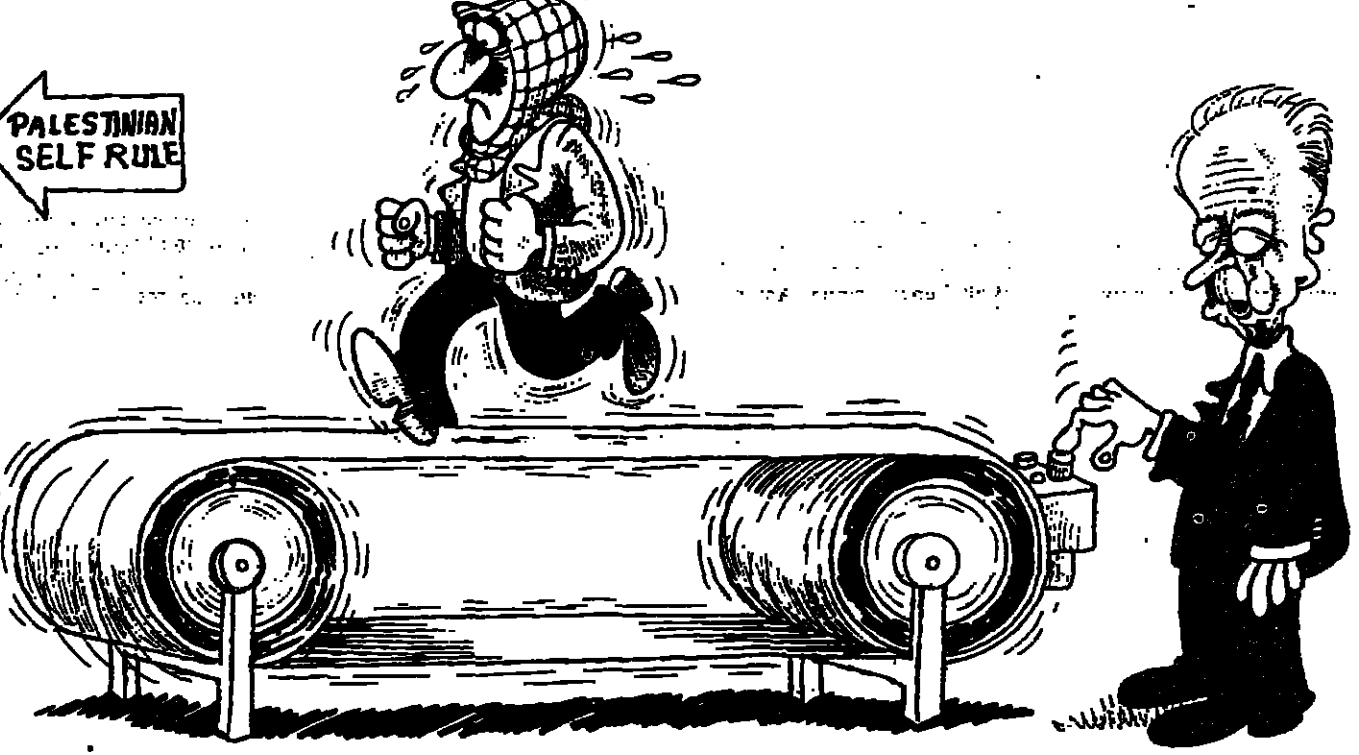
But what is left unsaid in the entire deal is how Jordanians with Palestinian roots, who have a very deep interest in seeing a just and equitable settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, see the state of affairs. That is not to say that all of them are eager to pack up their bags and return to their homeland at the first given opportunity. But they definitely seek Palestinian independence and to be at least told that they have a right to exercise their options in an atmosphere free of ifs and buts.

The PLO leadership, which boasts of having a strong "constituency" in Jordan, has to take into consideration that the Kingdom has a concern beyond the immediate relationship of one Arab party supporting another's decisions and moves in the context of peace negotiations with a common enemy.

And that is a cause for worry since the repercussions for Jordan, God forbid, of the PLO falling short of the aspirations of the Palestinians will be heavy, particularly if the Kingdom is perceived as having gone ahead unreservedly with a course of PLO action which may not bode well for the Palestinian cause in the end.

I do not claim to have a ready-made solution to the problem. But, for one thing, the PLO could do a lot by closer consultations with the experienced strategists of Jordan in advancing the process of negotiations and ensuring that whatever possible is done to allay the fears of the PLO's self-styled constituency in Jordan.

M. KAHL



## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# Cairo deal detrimental to Palestinian rights; Yemeni reconciliation is cause for joy

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

CRITICISM OF the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Cairo agreement, domestic issues and the situation in Bosnia and Iraq dominated the themes in the local Arabic press in the past week.

The Cairo deal, signed by the PLO and Israel, has taken the Palestine issue into a dark tunnel with no sign of light at the end, said Arafat Hijazi, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab.

The fact that the deal was in favour of the Israelis was underlined by a spokesman for the Israeli army, who said the army participated actively in drawing up its provisions over matters related to security, said the writers. "We fear that in the absence of sufficient Palestinian military and political experts, Israel would continue to secure more gains at the expense of the Palestinian," said the writer.

The Palestinian masses were not expected to take to the streets and express their joy over the Cairo agreement because it is only a mere deal that would probably be exploited by the Israelis to their own benefit, said Taher Adwan in Al Dustour. The masses seldom trust political solutions which fail to be implemented on the ground and which are normally of

benefit to the enemy, he said. The writer said that the PLO leadership, like the other regimes of the Arab world, does not inform the masses of the deals concluded with the Israelis in a true expression of lack of democracy and absence of close contacts and cooperation between the rulers and the ruled.

Commenting on a statement to the Israeli press by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in which he advocated the creation of confederation between Israel, the occupied territories and Jordan, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that Israel is using the occupied territories as a tool to achieve a federal entity with Jordan. Tareq Masarweh said that through this scheme, Israel is clearly trying to fulfill its old dream of creating a substitute Palestinian entity at the expense of Jordan. He said that under the Cairo agreement, Israel remains in full charge of the crossing points between the West Bank and Jordan, enabling the Jewish state to control the travel of Palestinians both ways, and ensuring that more Palestinians go out than those who come into the West Bank.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, said that while the Arab masses

decried the Cairo deal, Washington has naturally welcomed it because it is clearly in favour of the Jewish state.

Tareq Masarweh and Taher Al Adwan welcomed the expected deal for reconciliation between the leaders of the Yemeni people. One cannot hide the Arab masses joy over the end of the Yemeni political crisis and the Jordanian people in particular take pride in the fact that the reconciliation is to be crowned with the signing of a document in Amman said Masarweh. He expressed hope that the document would be implemented and serve as an impetus for equality between the north and south in development matters and in helping the Yemeni people to attain their common objectives.

Adwan said that any delay in signing the document and implementing its provisions is bound to backfire and adversely affect the morals of the Yemeni people. The document to be signed by the Yemeni leaders in Amman, he said, sets an example for the leaders of the Arab countries to forge the long awaited Arab unity.

Salameh Ekour, a writer in Sawt Al Shaab, reflected on the situation in Iraq and stressed that the Arab countries, which are applying the sanctions on the Iraqi people,

are responsible for their suffering. The writer said that Arab leaders are responsible for the tens of thousands of Iraqi citizens who continually lose their lives due to the lack of food and medicine and are also responsible for future Iraqi boycott of any Arab activities at the political, social and economic levels.

Mohammad Subeini, a columnist in Al Dustour, urged Jordanian women to lead the campaign against those tampering with the food and medicine. "Housewives have to date failed to join the campaign although they are responsible for the well-being of their households and children and they serve as the first defence line protecting their families," said the writer.

Mohammad Daoud, another Al Dustour columnist, expressed fear that the manipulation of merchants dealing with food stuffs would continue unless the government took drastic measures against them.

Referring to the past week's discovery of merchants trying to peddle defrosted meat as fresh meat, the writer said the Ministry of Supply ought to re-examine its present measures concerning the trading in food supplies and should employ qualified personnel to conduct actual inspection of food supplies sold in stores.

## NATO's 'risky' plans Allies Sarajevo mission would be tougher than Gulf raids

By Nicholas Doughty  
Reuters

NAPLES — NATO is assembling the biggest collection of Western air power since the 1991 Gulf war against Iraq, ready to hit Serb forces besieging Sarajevo or elsewhere in Bosnia from bases in Italy.

But military officials say strikes in Bosnia could be a far tougher and riskier operation than the Gulf war, despite the fact that NATO pilots have been able to prepare carefully by flying over their potential targets.

"In some ways, this is the best prepared air campaign in history. The pilots have had an unprecedented amount of time over Bosnia," said one NATO military official.

"But there are different problems, different risks involved here. They take away a lot from that advantage."

In January 1991, allied warplanes blasted Iraqi positions in and around Kuwait, dropping millions of tonnes of bombs, strafing troop positions and using guided weapons to wreck air defences, power stations and other installations.

Then as now, allied forces had full control of the skies and could operate as they liked, around the clock, with virtually no opposition from Iraqi planes or the country's shattered air defences. The U.S.-led coalition lost only a handful of planes.

In addition, the good weather and open desert terrain were ideal for air operations.

But even with those advantages, ground troops were needed to drive Iraqi forces out of Kuwait — leading the military to the conclusion that air power can only help to win a war, not do the job on its own.

Even though the battle lines were clearly drawn in the Gulf, there were several incidents of allied planes firing on their own ground forces by mistake in the heat of battle.

Those limitations serve to point up the risks in Bosnia, military officials say.

NATO pilots say they are not greatly worried by Bosnian Serb anti-aircraft fire. They do not have an integrated air defence system backed by radar as did the Iraqis, just some guns and shoulder-launched missiles that Western jets can dodge.

The problems lie elsewhere. It will be much harder to find and hit targets in Bosnia's hilly, wooded terrain than it was in the desert, even though

forward air controllers in Bosnia have worked with NATO pilots to pinpoint targets so far.

Serb artillery, mortars and other heavy weapons can be easily moved, where Iraqi weapons were dug in to prepared positions and less mobile.

There is also a much greater danger of killing civilians with air strikes in Bosnia, especially if the Serbs move their weapons into towns and villages.

"There are no definites in this world, you can't be absolutely sure that you will eliminate collateral damage," said U.S. Captain Jim Pavlica, who flies an A-10 "Warthog" attack plane from Aviano airbase in northern Italy.

Bad winter weather in Bosnia, with low cloud and rain, also means it could be harder to hit targets accurately. Pilots interviewed in the last few days said conditions had been far from ideal for any air strikes.

The biggest concern for NATO, though, is whether its planes can protect U.N. peacekeepers and relief workers on the ground in Bosnia, where there are no clearly defined front lines, if they are attacked in retaliation for air strikes.

NATO commanders are beefing up the U.S., British, French, Dutch and Turkish air forces in Italy with planes suited for a ground attack role. By the end of this week, there will be around 170 fighters, bombers and ground attack jets in Italy or based on aircraft carriers in the Adriatic.

Through mid-air refuelling from tankers, the planes can stay over Bosnia, covering U.N. peacekeepers in enclaves such as Srebrenica and Tuzla as well as Sarajevo, until they run out of ammunition, bombs and missiles.

But the planes cannot hold ground and, if Serb or other forces move in close to U.N. troops, the pilots could risk killing the very people they want to protect.

Western allies are unwilling to consider the only alternatives: pulling the 10,000 lightly-armed peacekeepers out before any air strikes or sending more troops, armour and artillery in to support them on the ground.

"The history of air power, from World War II through Vietnam to the Gulf, has proved that it cannot win a conflict on its own," said another NATO official. "Bosnia has got a lot of risks, the worst kind for pilots."



## The 'smoke' invasion

### Asians puff their way towards world's largest cigarette market

HONG KONG — They are smoking cigarettes in the mountains of Nepal to increase their stamina.

In the Philippines, cigarettes are mixed with healthy images of the good life, hang gliding, skiing and high-speed boating.

And in Vietnam, anything American is good, with Lucky Strike, Marlboro and Pall Mall providing a taste of the affluent West.

Spurred on by the sophisticated marketing prowess of Western cigarette companies, Asians are quickly puffing their way into becoming the world's largest and most lucrative market.

"I am smoking because I feel tired and this cigarette will refresh me," said Ram Bahadur Tamang, a middle-aged porter in Kathmandu. "It gives me strength to carry my heavy load."

Asia already accounts for more than half the world's consumption of cigarettes, according to a report released last month by the British mar-

ket research group EURO-MONITOR.

The report also revealed the region's potential for even more growth, with the average Asian still smoking less than half the number of cigarettes per year than his European counterpart.

"The tobacco companies are pretty much behind this trend in smoking," said Judith Mackay, a Hong Kong-based consultant for the World Health Organisation (WHO) and one of Asia's best known anti-smoking crusaders.

Western cigarette companies, with help from their governments, particularly the United States, have used fair-trade agreements to crack most of the state-controlled cigarette monopolies in the region.

A U.S. government report shows that American tobacco exports grew from \$64 billion to \$142 billion a year in the late 1980s, with about 55 per cent of that due to imports by Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.

A rangoon-based diplomat

representing a cigarette-exporting nation recently deplored what he called the dumping of tobacco products in the developing world by Western nations, where consumption was diminishing.

"I'm a social smoker myself, but I'm frankly disturbed by what we in the developed world are doing," the diplomat said.

Western tobacco companies say, however, that they are only filling the demand for what is a popular and legal habit, and that all the blame should not be placed on them, given that most of these countries had state-owned cigarette companies before.

"We are not guilty, as we are not forcing anyone to smoke, only selling satisfaction like hotels sell hospitality," said Ruhul A. Mazumdar, director of the mainly British-owned Bangladesh Tobacco Company Ltd. "Blaming us is unfair," he said.

But Mr. Mackay says that western cigarette companies, unlike the state monopolies,

bring with them sophisticated advertising campaigns that have linked smoking with the region's growing affluence and is attracting more young people and women.

Cigarette companies, many of them American and British, spent more than \$185 million last year for advertising in Asia, according to a survey by Asian advertising and marketing magazine.

"The advertising is not showing Chinese selling to Chinese," Mr. Mackay said. "It shows the Marlboro cowboy riding around, or Caucasians enjoying the good life in a mountain top villa... they are selling a western lifestyle," he said.

Smoking rates in Asia are much higher than in Europe and the United States, where on average 30 per cent of men and women smoke, a number that continues to decline because of tough anti-smoking legislation and campaigns.

Western cigarette companies have found developing countries to be the ripest market to

compensate for dwindling sales at home. Men make up the vast majority of smokers in Asia, although the number of women and children taking up the habit is on the rise, according to WHO statistics.

Vietnam has a smoking rate of between 50 per cent and 80 per cent among men in urban areas, and in Cambodia the rate is as high as 80-to-100 per cent among all men. In Thailand, there were 11.4 million smokers in 1991, a 10 per cent increase from three years earlier, according to the country's health ministry.

China is the largest smoking country in the world, with more than 300 million people having taken up the habit, according to the government's statistics.

China's cigarette market is still fairly restricted to foreign cigarettes.

A Western tobacco company spokesman in India, where 80 billion cigarettes were sold last year, said: "If four people can sell cigarettes why not a fifth." Agency France-Press

## To our health

By Jimmy Carter

THE U.S. tobacco industry has launched a massive campaign to defeat President Bill Clinton's proposal to add a substantial health tax on cigarettes and an equivalent tax on other tobacco products.

As a southerner and a farmer, I care about the plight of the tobacco farmer. But I also care that tobacco killed 419,000 Americans last year. Almost all of them started smoking as children and became addicted before they were old enough to know better. There are real people with real families behind each of those death statistics — people like my father, my mother, both sisters and my brother, all of whom smoked and died of cancer.

President Clinton's proposal would lengthen the lives of an estimated 900,000 Americans by discouraging children from becoming addicted to cigarettes and encouraging

many current smokers to quit. This health tax would extend more lives than any single preventive health measure now under consideration.

The tobacco industry is using its enormous public relations and lobbying resources to try to convince Congress and the American public that a health tax on tobacco would do such a good job of reducing smoking that tobacco farmers and the economy of the south would be devastated. This implies that Americans must keep smoking and dying in vast numbers of preserve tobacco industry jobs and the economic health of tobacco-producing states. This argument is both immoral and factually wrong.

Even if the debate were about tobacco industry jobs vs. human lives, only the tobacco processors would support the sacrifice of hundreds of thousands of lives to protect a much smaller number of jobs.

But the debate is not about jobs vs. lives. The tobacco industry has distorted the facts about jobs, just as it has manipulated the government and the tobacco farmers for so many years. One recent industry publication projected that the tax would cost 270,000 jobs even though there are only 256,616 jobs involved in the entire U.S. tobacco industry, including farming, warehousing, manufacturing and wholesaling.

Economists and health experts agree that President Clinton's proposal would cause about a 12 per cent drop in smoking. But this would not be devastating for tobacco farmers. Demand for U.S.-grown tobacco would drop by only about 6 per cent because approximately half of all U.S.-grown tobacco is now exported, either as raw tobacco or in cigarettes. Tobacco leaf and cigarettes sent overseas will cause death and disease in other nations but will not be

affected by the health tax.

The irony is that tobacco farmers really are in trouble. More than 40,000 tobacco farms disappeared during the past 10 years, and tobacco manufacturing jobs have fallen 29 per cent. These job losses cannot be blamed on health restrictions; they occurred despite the fact that 28 billion more cigarettes were made in the U.S. in 1991 than in 1983 because of rising cigarette exports.

Farmers and workers are suffering hard times because tobacco companies are now importing more than one-third of the tobacco used in U.S.-made cigarettes, producing more cigarettes overseas and automating production to eliminate manufacturing jobs. While encouraging American farmers to fight tobacco taxes, major tobacco companies are teaching growers in other countries how to produce tobacco for the U.S. market.

Change for tobacco farmers is inevitable. They should pursue their enlightened self-interest in a high health tax on tobacco, with a generous portion earmarked to help tobacco farmers and their communities shift to other sources of incomes. If tobacco companies were truly interested in helping farmers and not just securing profits, they would agree.

Even a much higher health tax increase of \$2 per pack, which polls show is supported by the vast majority of the American public, including two-thirds of tobacco state voters, could be one of the tobacco farmers and the south — not to mention the rest of the country.

The writer, a former U.S. president, is chairman of the Carter Center in Atlanta. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

## Hizbollah

### Weighing the options

By Nadim Ladki  
Renter



Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah: The resistance will go on (AFP)

JIBSHEET, Lebanon — Prospects of peace in the Middle East are forcing even the most radical Muslim fundamentalists in the front line against Israel to consider what once was unthinkable: laying down their arms.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), whose fighters attack Israeli troops in south Lebanon almost every week, has been grappling for several months now with the issue of what to do if Lebanon and Israel sign a peace treaty.

A senior pro-Iranian source in Beirut says the group has come up with a plan "to face the consequences of such a peace if and when it happens."

He said Hizbollah would disband its 5,000-strong military wing, the Islamic Resistance, once the last Israeli soldier withdrew from south Lebanon.

But it will maintain its political, social and security organs and resist any attempts to normalise ties with Israel.

The source did not elaborate, but Lebanese security sources believe Hizbollah's security organs could spearhead attempts to prevent any trade or economic dealings with Israel.

In the past the security organs have carried out suicide bomb attacks and assassinations against Israeli and Western targets in Lebanon.

The group is also believed to be the umbrella organisation for hostage takers who made Lebanon a no-go zone for Westerners in the 1980s. It denies links with the hostage-takers.

"Our struggle has two fronts: preventing recognition of Israel and (preventing) normalisation of ties with it," another senior pro-Iranian source in Beirut said.

"We are bound to lose the battle or recognition when and if the governments sign peace treaties with Israel. But in the war of normalisation,

we have several means to stop the Arab peoples from accepting the concept of ties with Israel," he said.

Israel and the United States want the Lebanese army to disarm Hizbollah before any Israeli withdrawal from a self-styled security zone in south Lebanon.

But the Lebanese government says resistance to the occupation is legitimate and vows not to curb Hizbollah, the only Lebanese militia that still has arms, before Israel sets a timetable for its pullout.

The guerrillas say they will keep their fingers on the trigger until every Israeli soldier has left.

"We don't trust them, we will not take their word and stop our attacks only on promises," said a Hizbollah military commander identified only as Hajj, interviewed by Reuters at his modest house in the southern village of Jibsheet.

"We will stop only when we see they all left," said Hajj, who according to colleagues has taken part in 40 attacks on Israeli troops.

Hizbollah maintains its guerrilla bases in the south and has a large part of its popular support there. After mounting thousands of attacks since 1983 on Israeli and allied forces its fighters are still learning how to deal with prospect of peace.

"Once the Israeli occupation of south Lebanon ends we know we will have to put down our arms as our immediate goal would have been achieved," Hajj said.

"We don't want to be dragged into any confrontation with the Lebanese army when and if Israeli withdraws," he said.

"The army would then want to take over security and we will not try to stop it," another guerrilla explained as a sonic boom from an Israeli jet shook the village.

The Islamic resistance has grown into a formidable force in recent years, pulling off several successful attacks against the security zone.

A senior Western diplomat in Beirut said Hizbollah was "very effective and is a force to be reckoned with."

## Northeast Somalia

### At peace but seeking better life

By Buchizya Mseteka  
Renter

ALULA, Somalia — Fifty-year-old Mohammad Ahmad Shabel stood up to welcome rare visitors to this barren village at the tip of the Horn of Africa and entrance to the Gulf of Aden.

He cleared his throat. "We need help here," he said. "This is a peaceful area. We have organised ourselves politically and all we need now is material assistance from donors and the United Nations."

"I think it is only fair the U.N. and donors reward those areas that are peaceful, areas that are beginning to reconstruct themselves, but clearly lack the funds to do so on their own."

It wasn't much of a pitch for money. But peace was about all he had in this very remote and rugged corner of Somalia. There is a sharp contrast between the tranquility of this district and the banditry and intermittent clashes in the capital Mogadishu between U.N. peacekeepers and gunmen, or the looming tension in the southern port city of Kismayu.

No gunman or clan fighter is to be seen on the streets in Alula, a cluster of thatched huts and a single, dilapidated concrete building northeast of the coastal town of Bossaso.

The last gunshot fired in the area was 18 months ago, residents said.

Alula used to be home to some 7,000 fishing families. But 90 per cent of the population have fled the area since 1992 when killing, looting and destruction swept across Somalia in a civil war fuelled by famine that killed 350,000 people.

Mr. Shabel is chairman of the newly established Alula District Council, one of the 15 set up in Somalia's vast northeast out of 80 for the whole country planned by the U.N. operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

UNOSOM wants to resurrect government in Somalia, which has been without one since rebels toppled President



MASS STARVATION: Somali women queue for food at a "feeding centre" in war-ravaged Mogadishu (AFP photo)

Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991.

But the campaign faces serious resistance, partly because it threatens to wrest power from warlords such as General Mohammed Abshir Muse, head of the region's only military faction, the Somali Salvation Democratic Front.

"Districts are a good way of reconstructing a country like ours, which has over the last three years degenerated into the 15th century," said Ali Artan Yusuf, a 52-year-old businessman.

Mr. Yusuf, like most Alula inhabitants, belongs to the Merjerten clan. He fled Mogadishu when warlord Mohammed Farah Aided's Habr Gedir clan stormed the capital and the slaughter began.

In the last year 54 of the 80 planned councils were formed, including only one of the 15 envisaged for Mogadishu.

The shortfall is due to fight-

ing between gunmen and the 25,000-strong U.N. forces and opposition by Gen. Aided and some other warlords who denounce the councils as tools of U.N. "Colonialism."

Under the U.N. plan, district councils should form regional councils and set up a central authority known as the Transitional National Council by the end of February before elections for a new government in 1995.

Outgoing U.N. Special Representative to Somalia Jonathan Howe, a retired U.S. admiral, admits the road to reconstruction is long and bumpy as long as Gen. Aided opposes the U.N. presence.

"But all the same it's encouraging to see areas such as Alula leading the way. People here see no point in antagonistic politics and are now gearing up to a new life," Mr. Howe said during a tour of Alula.

"The international community will reward areas that are

peaceful and ready to rebuild their lives. The message to those who refuse to cooperate is that the international community is no longer patient."

As elsewhere in Somalia, everything from rooftops to water pumps was looted in Alula after the Barre government's fall.

Virtually all families in Alula are destitute but they receive basic essentials such as cooking pots, plastic buckets and metal sheets from aid agencies operating in the area.

But by Somali standards, Alula is a peaceful place.

"It's so beautiful and encouraging here, very different from the south of the country," said Alexa McArthur of the Geneva-based MEDAIR, one of four foreign nurses helping provide some medical care in Alula.

"People here are peaceful and keen to get back to leading their normal lives," she said.

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## German markets disappointed by Bundesbank rate cut

FRANKFURT (R) — German share and bond markets weakened Friday as investors reacted with disappointment to what was seen as only a half-hearted interest rate cut by the Bundesbank Thursday.

After an initially huge rally in the wake of the Bundesbank's half-point cut in the discount rate to 5.25 per cent, both bond and share prices failed to recover after falling sharply on Thursday afternoon.

Although the German move triggered off a round of interest rate cuts throughout Europe, domestic markets felt cheated because the powerful German central bank had not paved the way for a general decline in interest rates sometime in the future.

The Bundesbank's most important interest rate — its securities repurchase rate — was held steady at six per cent on Thursday, the level which has prevailed since early December.

The Bundesbank controls short-term money market rates via its "repo" rate, the price at which it offers funds to the banking system in weekly tenders for cash.

Nigel Longley, an institutional adviser at Commerzbank, said, "the market was disappointed by the fact that the repo rate was not cut. It was interpreted as not a strong cut."

On the Frankfurt Bourse the 30-share DAX index closed at 2,151.97, up 1.09 per cent or 23.25 points from the previous floor trade close, before the Bundesbank cut the discount rate.

But it was down 10.32 points from Thursday's post-bourse finishing level.

There was a similar reaction in the bond market, which had seen dramatic initial gains after the discount move and just as dramatic falls in late Thursday trade.

Despite the cautious market reaction to the Bundesbank move, the European Commission welcomed the steps taken by other European nations to match the Germans.

"We don't really have a declaration (on rate cuts), but obviously are very satisfied with the downward movement," a spokesman for Economic Affairs Commissioner Henning Christophersen said.

On Friday, the Danish central bank cut its discount and key deposit rate to 5.50 per cent from 5.75 per cent.

Sweden cut its key marginal rate to 7.25 from 7.50 per cent, the Bank of Finland's money market tender rate fell to 4.75 from 4.95 per cent and the Bank of Spain reduced its daily intervention rate by about 0.25 to around 8.55 per cent.

Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy had moved already on Thursday. But French interest rates held steady.

## Arab states seek to cut pollution from cement plants

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states are seeking to cut pollution from their cement plants, amid growing concern in a region where environmental damage is among the worst in the world.

Officials from the 21-member Arab League will meet in Riyadh in April to discuss upgrading efficiency and introducing technology at their cement facilities to reduce pollution, their cement union has said.

The April 25-27 talks will cover "environmental problems resulting from the cement industry... and identifying methods of developing technological facilities to cut pollution," the Damascus-based union said in a report obtained here.

The conference, the first of its kind in the Arab World, will bring together Arab cement producers, Arab and foreign environmental officials and experts, and world producers of anti-pollution equipment.

Cement is among the main industries in Arab countries. Latest figures showed Arab states produced around 66 million tonnes of cement in 1991, of which around a third are produced by the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Egypt is the top cement producer in the Arab World, with output standing at more than 15 million tonnes in 1991.

The Riyadh conference comes amidst growing environmental concerns in the Gulf and other Arab countries due to high pollution levels from car exhausts, inadequate waste disposal, desertification and persistent oil leakage.

The Gulf is among the world's most polluted regions due to a rapid growth in industries and the leakage of more than one million barrels of crude into the water every year.

## European producer cuts keep aluminium ball rolling

LONDON (R) — Aluminium prices surged to 18-month highs Friday as traders took heart from fresh promises to cut production which suggest that a global agreement to reduce the flood of metal into the market really could work.

Price on the London Metal Exchange (LME) have risen almost 20 per cent since January. On Friday the metal was worth \$1,331 a tonne, a rise of \$17 and the highest since August 1992.

The rise buoyed the rest of the industrial metals on the LME though those prices later edged off a little.

Last month in Brussels major Western and Russian producers agreed cuts were essential to bring the world's aluminium surplus under control.

Three European smelters this week announced aluminium production cuts totalling 93,000 tonnes a year, and Russian officials insisted they would uphold their end of the bargain.

"I was sceptical (about the plan) until recently. It now depends on Russia," said Neil Buxton at Metal Bulletin Research.

The lightweight metal is increasingly popular in industry where it is used to make anything from cars to drink cans. But a global recession and surging exports from Russia, which saw its domestic market collapse along with the Soviet Union, led to a fast rise in stocks, estimated by one trader at close to six months' consumption needs.

The latest announcements have helped calm an anxious market which was hearing

promises of cuts from several countries but little action in West Europe which had initially pledged to take 300,000 tonnes out of the market. The West's cuts now total around 737,000 tonnes while Russia has said its cuts already top 100,000 and should be up to 300,000 by the end of April.

"If the West cuts output by one million tonnes and Russia cuts exports by 250,000 tonnes, it would put the market balance in a 400,000-tonne deficit this year," Mr. Buxton said.

That would still not be enough to reduce stocks, which in LME warehouses alone stand at over 2.5 million tonnes.

## Gold price drops

LONDON (R) — Gold slid Friday to its lowest level in three weeks as investment funds in the United States decided to sell, bullion traders said.

The fall started on New York's comex market, spreading to London, where gold was fixed in the afternoon at \$379.90 an ounce, a drop of nearly \$6 from the previous day's closer.

It later slipped to around \$378.

"It was a whole different ball game when the funds came in," one dealer said, adding that there seemed no single piece of news to trigger the

selling.

Dealers said gold had looked vulnerable to correction this week, having failed to climb above \$387. The next support level for the market was expected to be around \$375.

Some dealers said there now seemed to be less chance of strikes in Bosnia and this might have removed the incentive for precautionary buying of gold ahead of the weekend. Gold had traditionally been a safe haven for funds at times of crisis.

"The removal of that threat may have pushed forward a couple of days what was going to happen anyway," one said.

## Yen strength could intensify, reach 95 to the dollar

This report is submitted by Naser Nabulsi, private client group, Merrill Lynch-Dubai

### Overview

Fundamental view: An impasse between the U.S. and Japan over trade issues has led to a sharp surge in the yen in recent days. With the yen now trading at the JPY/USD 104 level, the Japanese unit has already appreciated beyond our previous 12-month target level of JPY/USD 105. After having moved so far, so fast, we would not be surprised to see the yen pull back a bit in coming months if the U.S. and Japan make some progress on easing trade frictions.

But prospects for large current account surpluses to persist suggest that yen strength will continue and perhaps intensify over the coming year. We have moved our 6-month target for the yen to JPY/USD 100 and our 12-month target to JPY/USD 95. We continue to look for the dollar to strengthen against European currencies over the coming year as European interest rates decline, and look for the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.85 level by this time next year.

Technical view: Overall, the week ended Feb. 11 was uneventful for the U.S. dollar. This is reflected by the fact that the greenback rallied against three of the six major currencies that we most regularly discuss and by the fact that the dollar index fell a modest 0.10 per cent for the week. However, the weakness of the past two days was both eventful and in line with medium term momentum oscillators which have had a downward bias for some time. It should be noted that sentiment has been deteriorating of late.

Despite the fact that we still think that the greenback is positioning itself for a strong rally over the longer term, these conflicts — together with the presence of important resistance at 97.50-98.00 — suggest that the index itself may not have a sustainable move in either direction until the conflicts are resolved. The dollar's movements against individual currencies, therefore, should be monitored more closely than the index. Nearby support is just above 94.00, with benchmark support at 90.29.

### Japanese yen

Fundamental view: An extraordinarily rapid rise of the yen in recent days to the JPY/USD 101.3 level was triggered by an impasse in U.S.-Japan trade talks that came to a head on Feb. 11 when President Clinton met Prime Minister Hosokawa. With the U.S. now threatening trade sanctions, market participants appear to have concluded that a stronger yen is warranted as well, even though there is little evidence that the U.S. is deliberately talking up the yen. The yen is likely to remain highly sensitive to U.S.-Japan political tensions in coming weeks. Trade concessions by the Japanese could lead to a pullback in the yen, while lack of progress in boosting imports would lead to a stronger yen to restrain Japanese exports. The recent rise of the yen could also push the Bank of Japan to

a 0.50 per cent or 0.75 per cent cut in the discount rate, which we expect will be needed in any case in coming weeks.

Although trade tensions have served as the catalyst for the latest move in the yen, we have argued for some time that persistent current account surpluses would bring renewed upward pressure on the yen. Even if Japan agrees to some market access measures for U.S. companies, we still expect it to post a current account surplus of nearly \$120 billion this year. That should help the yen to continue to trade in the JPY/USD 100-to-110 range for most of this year and we expect it to reach a level as high as JPY/USD 95 by this time next year.

Technical view: The Japanese yen gained 1.4 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week, and — for the third week in a row — was the strongest currency of the six we most regularly monitor. Further strength this week has carried the currency through to test the August high near 101.70/U.S. dollar. Medium term momentum is constructive, sentiment indicators are still only neutral, and we have been of the view that the August-January correction has given way to a resumption of the underlying long term uptrend. This recent strength substantiates that latter point and implies a yen high near 101 in coming weeks. Benchmark support remains 113-114, with intervening support in the neighbourhood of 110-111.

### Deutsche mark

Fundamental view: The dollar has pulled back from the DM/USD 1.75 level to the DM/USD 1.72 level in sympathy with its sell-off against the yen. Despite the recent 25 basis point hike in the Fed funds rate in the U.S., the Bundesbank's delay in easing monetary policy has helped support the Deutsche mark at a time when U.S.-Japan trade frictions have raised questions about U.S. exchange rate policy. We do not expect a cut in German interest rates until the March 3 or March 17 council meetings in light of recent data on M3 money growth showing money growth well above the Bundesbank's target range of 4.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent. Still, the outlook for inflation to moderate further looks excellent, especially if the recent wage agreement in the chemical sector sets a pattern for other settlements. The chemical agreement granted an effective increase of only 1.5 per cent. German industrial production fell by 2.1 per cent in November to a new cyclical low, suggesting that the economy is faltering again after two positive quarters in 1993. The west German economy contracted 1.9 per cent in 1993, the sharpest decline in output since the World War II.

We continue to look for German 3-month money rates to fall to 4.0 per cent or less by the end of this year compared with 5.80 per cent currently. We maintain our 12-month target of DM/USD 1.85, and expect the dollar to reach the DM/USD 1.80 level in 3 months.

Technical view: The Deutsche mark rallied 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Feb. 11. Medium term sentiment readings are near oversold and, while

short term momentum has been deteriorating recently, medium term oscillators appear to have bottomed. All of this suggests that the currency is still engaged in a medium term bottoming process. Indeed, it would likely require weakness through the 1.79 DM/U.S. dollar area to negate the strengthening momentum environment.

Thus, even though the dominant long term trend remains down, we continue to believe that the immediate pressures in coming weeks should be to the upside. Nearby resistance is 1.73, then 1.68-1.69. The mark/yen cross has moved below 60, thereby making new multi-month lows. While momentum is oversold, the cross will have to move back up through the 62.50 over the next few weeks to reverse medium term momentum from down to up. In an environment where both individual currencies are expected to rally versus the U.S. dollar, 60 remains important support and resistance in the 65.50-66.50 range will be monitored for a potentially important breakout.

### Pound Sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound rose to U.S.\$/GBP 1.48 as the dollar plunged against the yen. But the pound fell to DM/GBP 2.55 due to expectations of another near-term U.K. base rate cut coupled with increasing pessimism on an early German interest rate cut. Economic indicators released this week all point to a slowing economy: Unemployment showed an unexpected rise in January, industrial production in December was disappointing, and inflation was below expectations.

We continue to expect a 25 basis point U.K. rate cut in the second quarter to offset the impact of substantial tax increases on April 1. But we believe this will be the last cut in this cycle. By contrast, we expect short-term German rates to fall by 175 basis points in 12 months, pushing the pound up to DM/GBP 2.70. We expect the pound to depreciate to U.S.\$/GBP 1.46 in 12 months. The Fed is likely to "snug" short-term rates by 25 basis points or more this year as the U.S. economy maintains a healthy momentum.

Technical view: The British pound fell 0.6 per cent versus the U.S. dollar last week and, for the second week in a row, was the weakest of the six major currencies we most regularly monitor. This resulted in a test of the low end of the eight-month long trading range. Sentiment is neutral-to-oversold, but has been deteriorating. Short term momentum is weak and medium term oscillators now appear to be under pressure as well.

As a result, a decisive breakdown from the trading range (1.46 U.S.\$/GBP) would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42. Along with sterling's weakness against the U.S. dollar, the DM cross-rate also moved lower last week to below 2.57. Since momentum remains weak, the probability of a test of 2.53-2.55 has increased.

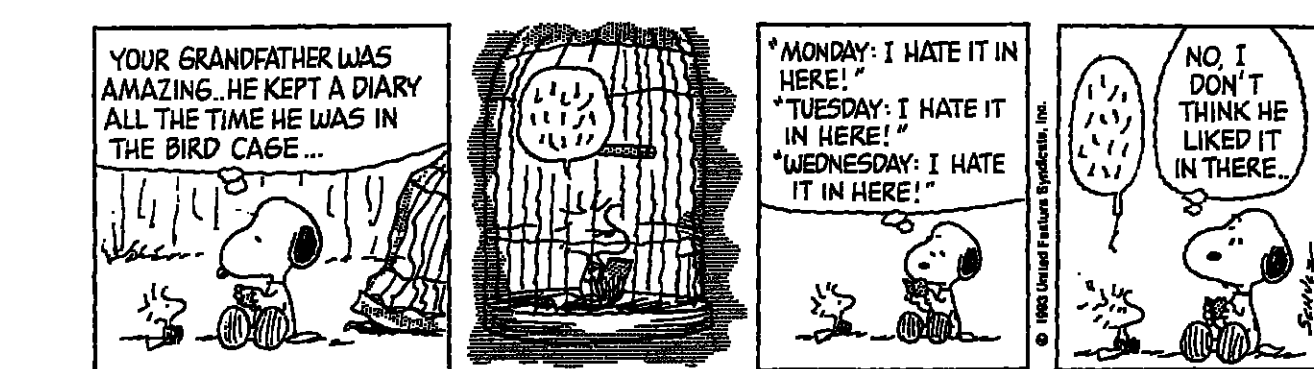
### THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

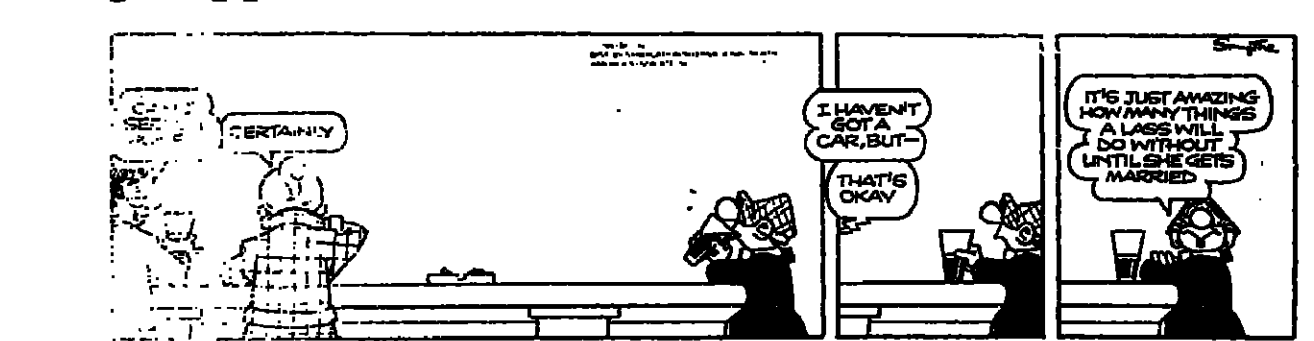


"There are many ways to put the sparks back. Try kissing with flint in your mouth."

### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



### Mutt'n'Jeff



## Jordan Times Tel. 667171

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation is good, too.

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Unusual and beautiful evenings are in the offing early in the evening be sure to take advantage of them and have a light on the table! Avoid unwelcome maker and don't jeopardise any asset.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You have to be particularly careful in motion. Arrange your transportation more intelligently and you travel with greater ease and speed in the future.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You feel like going on a spending spree because you are worried, but this is the worldly and part of your thinking, so think objectively instead.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Take care you do not make unkind remarks to others simply because you are worried about something. Add to present good will you now enjoy instead.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) If you think others have slighted or annoyed you, say nothing and return in kind instead of complaining. Finish boring tasks and you have more time for pleasurable things later.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Try not to argue with a good friend today just because you are frustrated. Find some better way to get ahead socially.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Be careful you do not jeopardise your good name in any way either in business or in personal life. See that your credit

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Find the right outlook through which to express yourself in the future. But make certain you get right information and can be trusted.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) It might be best not to express certain views you have though you know them to be right. Wait for a better time. Do more studying in the meantime.

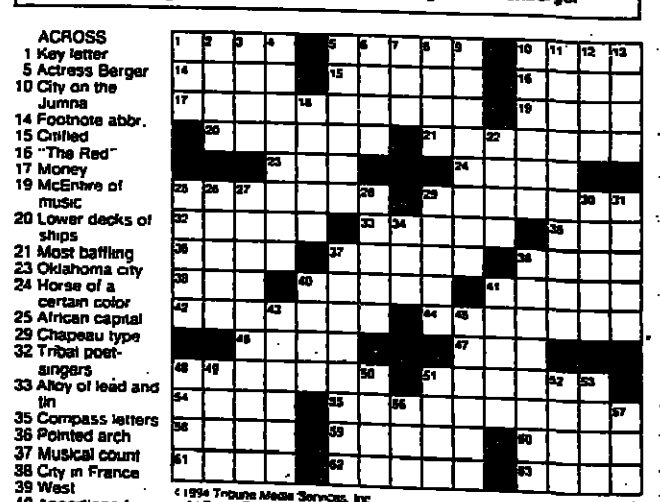
**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get that data you have neglected from associates so that your joint projects run more smoothly instead of being critical of them.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 19) Be enthusiastic about doing the tasks that are ahead of you and keep out of trouble you could otherwise get into. Be a clever, dynamic person.

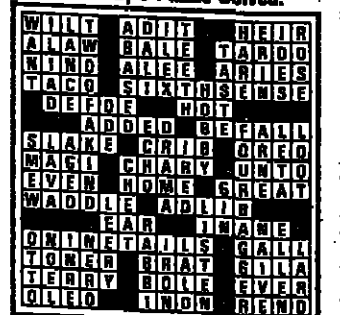
**AQUARIUS:** (January 20 to February 18) You are very anxious to have a good time but make sure it is not so terribly expensive to make you sad later. Do not associate with undependable persons or you will regret it later.

**PISCES:** (February 19 to March 20) Have more faith in how kin are handling home affairs instead of thinking you can do much better on your own. Be sure to clear the way of anything that stands in the way of your advancement.

### THE Daily Crossword by Eugene Puffenberger



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



### JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROJEK  
SOMEQ  
BISMUT  
CLUDED

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:                     

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday 5 Jumbles LIMIT NEEDY CROTCH PRISON  
Answer: What the disk jockey liked most at the 'loundmat' — THE "SPIN" CYCLE



**February 19, 1984**

# Cuts

## Rolling

s of cuts from several countries, but little action in Europe which had instead begun to take 300,000 tons out of the market. To cut now total annual production while Russia's cuts already by the end of April. West cuts output of 250,000 tonnes and Russia put the market at a 400,000-tonne deficit, Mr. Burton said would still not reduce stocks, where warehouses also over 2.5 million tons.

# rops

s said gold had looked to correct the saving failed to start '87. The next support the market was to be around \$375. Dealers said there would be less chance of a Bosnia and this improved the incentive for buying of gold the weekend. Gold is still been a safe haven for funds at times of removal of that threat pushed forward in days what was going anyway," one said.

# mes

## 72

**DE**

**LARY 19, 1984**

**February 19, 1984**

September 23 to October 21 and the right side which to express one is a referee, but make get right information a those who decide are trusted.

October 23 to November 21) it might be necessary certain views on which you know them a want for a better understanding in the market.

**RUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get the neglected from assets it your firm proceed smoothly instead of all of them.

**22:** (December 22 to January 21) Be enthusiastic about the risks that you and keep out of it could otherwise of clever, dynamic people.

**23:** (January 22 to February 21) You are very active at present time, but it is not so terrible to make you sad into associate with unpleasant as you will regret it.

**February 22 to March 21:** Lark in how to solve the affairs in the way you can do much of anything that the way of your own.

**Puttenberger**

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WHAZAKI: ARABIAN TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (12/24/1974 - 1/24/1975)

WEEKLY REPORT

COINVEST'S NAME

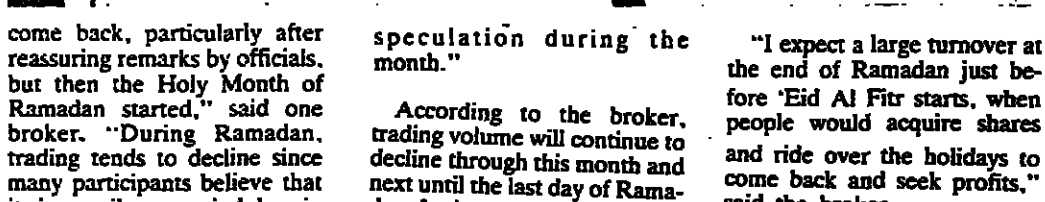
	TRADING VOLUME	PROG. 30	OPENING CLOSING PRICE	OPENING CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	245,327	1.659	1.770	1.780
JOHANNAN TRADING FACILITIES	248,008	0.008	1.854	1.860
JOHANNAN GENERAL TRADE CO. 567	1,475	0.009	1.800	1.820
JOHANNAN EXPORT/IMPORTS DEVELOPMENT ARABIAN	1,458	1.488	1.700	1.710
JOHANNAN INDUSTRIAL WAREHOUSE CO.	309,641	1.748	2.750	2.820
NATIONAL CHOCOLATE PRODUCTIONS CO. LTD	11,554	0.000	2.500	2.600
INTERNATIONAL TRADING & PLASTICS INC. CO. 751	19,176	1.390	1.770	1.770
JOHANNAN REP CO. COINVEST	69,247	2.040	2.570	2.580
JOHANNAN GENERAL TRADING	67,217	2.100	2.250	2.120
AL-RAJ KHALID NABA MANUFACTURING CO.	1,477	2.320	2.320	2.330
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,066,759</b>			

The foreign companies, working through local counterparts, are feeling their way around," said a broker, who, in line with standing AFM regulations, spoke in exchange for anonymity. "It will be some time before one could see the direct effects of fresh foreign money entering the market."

In general, foreign investors were described, are more thorough than local speculators. "They will go through a close scrutiny of companies, in terms of balance sheet, profitability,

This arrangement means an effective controlling and monitoring mechanism for the AFM as well as the company itself to ensure that controlling interest does not fall into the hands of foreign investors.

of security fears triggered by the Jan. 26 and Feb. 2 blasts at two cinema theatres and reports of other subversive plots. "Those who stayed away during that week have mostly



Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Previous Metals Date: 17/2/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JPY/lm	Metal	USD/Oz	JPY/lm
Gold	364.65	7.55	Silver	5.29	0.120

21 April

Other Currencies		Date: 17.2.1994
Currency	Mid	Offer
Rafaelini Dinar	1.8350	1.8480
Laotinese Lira	0.040560	0.041675
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1867
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3380	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1395	0.1405
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7900	1.8060
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1905
Greek Drachma	0.2737	0.3175
Cypriot Pound	1.3260	1.3650

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3394/04	Canadian dollar
	1.7188/98	Deutschemarks
	1.9290/00	Dutch guilders
	1.4510/20	Swiss francs
	35.40/44	Belgian francs
	5.8480/30	French francs
	1674.3/5.8	Italian lire
	104.63/73	Japanese yen
	7.9532/32	Swedish crowns
	7.4325/75	Norwegian crowns
	6.7130/80	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4780/90	
One ounce of gold	\$382.00/382.40	

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## Seoul: North-South dialogue must come before N. Korea-U.S. talks

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton Friday, stressing that an exchange of envoys between the two Koreas must come before any new round of high-level talks between Washington and Pyongyang, news reports said.

The reports said Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo, currently in Washington, had been charged with delivering the letter to Mr. Clinton before he returns to Seoul Friday.

"While stating that the Seoul-Washington agreement... calls for a 'thorough and broad' approach... President Kim is said to have reiterated that the two Koreas must exchange special envoys before the next North Korea-U.S. meeting," the national Yonhap News Agency said.

Speaking to Korean reporters in Washington Friday, Mr. Han clarified however that announcement of the date of a third round of Washington-Pyongyang talks could take place before the South-North envoy exchange, but only after inspections of the North's sus-

pect nuclear sites begins. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors are expected to travel to North Korea within the coming week, after Tuesday's agreement by Pyongyang to accept inspections of its declared nuclear sites.

That agreement withheld commitment on investigations into two facilities which Pyongyang says are non-nuclear, but which Western and South Korean experts believe are used for processing and storing weapons-grade plutonium.

"With regard to the issue of the deployment of Patriots (missiles) at U.S. bases in South Korea, the United States and South Korea have agreed not to discuss the issue until the IAEA board meeting is convened," Mr. Han told reporters.

Asked whether there was any difference in opinion between Washington and Seoul over the deployment of the missile batteries, he said no decision had been made and it was not known whether General Gary E. Luck, commander of the 36,000 U.S.

forces in Korea, would repeat his request for them.

Nor, he added, was it yet clear whether such a request would be in accordance with South Korea's assessment of military needs.

"The situation now is not much different from a year ago — but then the situation was getting worse, and now there is progress," Mr. Han said when asked what difference there was between now and last March when Pyongyang first threatened to withdraw from the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

That threat drew Washington into talks with Pyongyang, with which it has technically been at war since the 1950s, and led to North Korea returning to negotiations with the IAEA on Jan. 7.

Both Washington and Seoul have said that a decision on the holding of the annual joint South Korean-U.S. military exercise Team Spirit, traditionally staged in March, is in abeyance, though Washington has said preparations for it are still underway.

U.S. military spokesman in

Seoul have said the preparations can be called off "at any time."

"The Team Spirit exercises were contingent upon progress we would make in resolving the nuclear question, and I think once the inspections are completed the exercises can be readjusted," Mr. Han said in an interview on CNN Television.

Meanwhile, North Korea, fighting accusations it is secretly building nuclear weapons, sought Friday to turn the tables by accusing deadly rival South Korea of stockpiling enough plutonium to make 370 atomic bombs.

The Foreign Ministry in Pyongyang issued a memorandum calling on the South to scrap what the document called its nuclear weapons development programme and remove its plutonium stockpile. It also demanded that Seoul abandon its pressurised heavy water (PHWR) reactor at Wolsong, along with multi-purpose research reactors and post-irradiation test facilities forming "an integral centre of the plutonium production."

## S. Africa democracy forum to meet Monday

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's multi-party democracy negotiating forum is to meet Monday to consider amendments to the interim constitution aimed at averting a boycott by conservatives of April's first all-race elections.

ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa said Friday the African National Congress and the government had agreed to a Monday meeting of the forum at the World Trade Centre where the interim constitution was thrashed out over two years.

"Faxes are being sent out to all political parties... invitations will go to all parties that were part of the negotiating council at one stage or another," he told a news briefing.

These would include the pro-apartheid Conservative Party, the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, the Ciskei and Bophuthatswana black homelands and the white Afrikaner Volksunie (AVU), all of which quit the talks in protest last year.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the forum was expected to discuss a constitutional package proposed by the government and the ANC to draw the Freedom Alliance of separatist whites and autonomy-seeking black homeland leaders into the April 26-28 elections.

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthezi dismissed the proposals outlined by ANC President Nelson Mandela Wednesday as "cheap politicking."

But they have drawn a more guarded response from his allies in the right-wing alliance who have asked for more details.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the ANC was willing to discuss its proposals with the Freedom Alliance. "We are prepared to look at what their response is and sit down and see what else needs to be done for an all-inclusive settlement," he said.

He said the standing committee of parliament was expected to meet next Wednesday, and parliament itself would likely reconvene on Feb. 28 or March 1 to discuss amendments to the interim constitution it passed in December.

It would also have to amend the electoral act to allow for separate ballots for the national and provincial legislatures in April instead of a single ballot and allow more time for parties to register.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the ANC had held a bilateral meeting with the government Thursday and they were meeting again Friday to "finalise" the package.

The ANC was also meeting the white right-wing Afrikaner People's Front (APF) Friday, the APF has demanded a Volksstaat — white homeland — for Afrikaners.

In a further bid to bring all sides into the election, Mr. Ramaphosa said the ANC was setting up a meeting with Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini to discuss demands made to the government earlier this week, including a separate Zulu state.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gamsakhurdia's body flown to Chechnya

MOSCOW (AFP) — The body of former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who committed suicide in December, was flown to Grozny — the capital of the Russian Republic of Chechnya — Thursday after being exhumed, the agency Interfax reported. Earlier his body had been identified in Senaki in western Georgia after having been exhumed from a grave in the courtyard of a house in the village of Jikhaskari, close to Zugdidi. Representatives from Lithuania, Georgia, Chechnya and Ingushetia attended the identification, requested by the family, which was carried out by three Georgian doctors. ITAR-TASS said, Mr. Gamsakhurdia committed suicide on Dec. 31, but his wife, Manana, still lives in Grozny, the Chechen capital. There have been conflicting reports on Mr. Gamsakhurdia's death, and where he was buried. He was a personal friend of Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, and became Georgia's first democratically-elected president in May 1991, winning 87 per cent of the vote. He killed himself after the failure of an armed uprising by supporters known as Zviadists in western Georgia against Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

### Nepalese premier asked to resign

KATHMANDU (AFP) — Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has been asked by the head of his party to step down as Nepal's prime minister, a highly placed source in the Nepali Congress (NC) Party said Friday. The NC Party President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai had advised Mr. Koirala to resign from office following days of protests against the prime minister over his handling of recent by-elections, the source said. If Mr. Koirala does not resign by Sunday, a party committee will take disciplinary action which would automatically lead to his expulsion from the party, it added.

### Indonesia quake death toll hits 186

LIWA, Indonesia (AFP) — The death toll from a strong earthquake that shook the south Sumatra province of Lampung early Wednesday has risen to 186 people, with more than 2,000 injured, according to the relief centre here. Statistics on the relief centre board show 186 dead and 2,389 others injured, 1,016 seriously. The powerful quake also damaged 5,109 houses, 109 schools, 111 buildings of worship, 19 district health centres, destroyed 15 bridges and 34-kilometres (21 miles) of road. West Lampung district chief Umpu Singa said damage was estimated to reach 117 billion rupiah (\$55 million). Aftershocks continue to shake the area, but according to an official at the Meteorological Office, Engkon Kartapati, the magnitudes were in the range of 2.5 to three on the Richter Scale.

### India agrees to ICRC survey in Kashmir

GENEVA (AFP) — India has allowed the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit the strife-torn northern state of Kashmir for humanitarian purposes, a spokesman said Friday. "The Indian authorities have invited the ICRC to carry out a mission in the near future to Jammu and Kashmir to assess the humanitarian situation," according to the Geneva based organisation. The visit was arranged on Feb. 9 during a meeting in New Delhi between the Indian Home Secretary N.N. Vohra, and ICRC delegate general for Asia Jean-Michel Monod. It was agreed that the ICRC would propose dates for the mission, which will first deal with the protection of civilian populations. The New Delhi meeting immediately followed "an ICRC seminar on international humanitarian law for senior officers of Indian police and paramilitary forces in Hyderabad," according to the Red Cross.

### 11 die in Philippine carnival blast

COTABATO, Philippines (R) — Eleven revellers were killed and 23 wounded Friday when a hand grenade was tossed into a fun fair crowded with hundreds of people, police in the southern Philippines said. Almost simultaneously, a home-made bomb exploded outside the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) offices in another southern city but no one was hurt. The carnival blast in Isulan town near Cotabato City was the second major bombing attack in the troubled southern region of Mindanao, 800 kilometre south of Manila, in two months. Six people were killed when suspected Muslim extremists bombed a Roman Catholic cathedral in the main Mindanao city of Davao at Christmas. Police Commander Akmad Mamalinta said the fun fair in Isulan was packed with hundreds of revellers celebrating ahead of the town's religious fiesta when the grenade exploded shortly before 1 a.m. As the crowd scrambled for their lives, parts fell from some of the rides, causing more injuries. Some of the injured were trampled in the stampede, witnesses said.

### Fujimori swears in new cabinet

LIMA (AFP) — President Alberto Fujimori swore in a new cabinet Thursday following a cabinet crisis sparked by his handling of a high profile human rights case. Prime Minister Alfonso Bustamante resigned Wednesday following a dispute with Mr. Fujimori over a controversial law to move the trial of army troops charged with kidnapping and killing nine students and a lecture as part of an anti-Shining Path crackdown in July 1992. A general three colonels, two majors, one captain and one lieutenant had been scheduled to go before a civilian court but fought to go before military authorities instead in hopes of a more sympathetic hearing. A law moving the trial was passed on Feb. 10, despite bitter opposition, as the Supreme Court deliberated over which court had jurisdiction.

## Armenia shoots down Azeri jet

YEREVAN (Agencies) — Armenia shot down an Azeri Sukhoi SU-24 ground attack aircraft over its territory and captured the pilot, a mercenary from Kyrgyzstan, the Armenian Defence Ministry said Friday.

The aircraft was one of two which Thursday strayed across the frontier in the eastern district of Vardeniz, near the disputed territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, a ministry spokesman said.

An Azeri Defence Ministry spokesman in Baku had no immediate comment on the announcement.

The Armenian Defence Ministry spokesman, Gagik Martoyan, said two planes crossed into Armenian airspace. Anti-aircraft units opened fire on the SU-24 as it approached Vardeniz town, apparently intending to attack.

The second intruder, a SU-25 reconnaissance plane, turned back to Azerbaijan, Mr. Martoyan said.

A second crew member had also baled out of the stricken plane but had come to ground in the northern part of Karabakh, which lies formally inside Azerbaijan, though under Armenian control.

Martoyan said details of his fate were still being sought.

The Armenian spokesman said the captured pilot was a 44-year-old Tatar named as Marat Ishkinovich.

He was hired in the Central Asian Republic of Kyrgyzstan for a fee of \$1,000 per month plus \$300 per sortie to fly in the Azeri Air Force, Mr. Martoyan said.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been fighting an undeclared war over Karabakh for the past six years. Thousands of people have been killed and tens of thousands, mainly Azeris, displaced.

The territory, mainly inhabited by Armenians, was given to Azerbaijan by the Kremlin in 1923.



## Athens: Macedonia blockade will be strictly applied

ATHENS (AFP) — Athens has said that its blockade against Macedonia would be strictly applied at all customs points to all goods entering Greece bound for Skopje.

As queues of heavy goods vehicles built up at the main border post between Greece and Macedonia Thursday north of Salonika, a statement issued by the Finance Ministry said that Salonika customs officers would take charge of controlling all goods destined for Macedonia.

The statement came despite criticism from some of Greece's European partners over the blockade announced Wednesday against Macedonia in an increasingly bitter dispute over the name of the former Yugoslav republic.

But Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told Greek Television late Thursday that Athens had his "full support".

The measures announced by the Finance Ministry could lead to long delays for goods arriving in the ports of Kavala, east of Salonika, or Igoumenitsa in northwestern Greece, suspected of trying to reach Macedonia via Bulgaria or Albania.

Meanwhile in the Hague it was reported Thursday that Greece had also closed its land border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Dutch Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

Spokesman Djoeko Koekoek said a number of trucks, including some registered in the Netherlands, had been stopped by Greek border guards from crossing into Macedonia at Evzoni.

## Major, Reynolds to meet on Ulster peace process

LONDON (AFP) — Amid fresh violence in Northern Ireland, Prime Minister John Major of Britain and Albert Reynolds of Ireland meet here Saturday on their Ulster peace plan, still awaiting a response from Sinn Fein.

Before attending an England-Ireland rugby match in the afternoon, the premiers will meet at Mr. Major's Downing Street office with Irish Foreign Secretary Dick Spring and British Northern Ireland Secretary Patrick Mayhew, a spokesman said.

At their last meeting, on Dec. 15, Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Major presented their Anglo-Irish joint declaration — the Downing Street Declaration — outlining an historic

framework for peace in Ulster. That document notably offered Sinn Fein, political wing of the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA), a place at the negotiating table on condition the IRA renounced violence for at least three months.

The declaration does not exclude the principle of a unified Ireland, which the Catholic-based IRA wants.

But it guarantees that Britain would not cut Northern Ireland loose without the consent of the province's residents, the majority of whom are Protestant.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has asked for "clarification" of the declaration, neither accepting nor rejecting its terms.

Fourteen Chinese asylum-seekers hijacked planes to Taiwan in the ten previous incidents. Taipei's refusal to repatriate them has become a major source of tension between Taiwan and China, political enemies since the civil war ended in 1949.

"The hijacking damages relations between the two sides... hijacking is a serious crime in Taiwan and we cannot tolerate it," Taiwan's Vice Justice Minister Chiang Hao said.

Four rounds of bilateral talks have failed to reach agreement on a pact under which Taiwan would send the hijackers back. The two sides will resume talks in Beijing in late March.

Meanwhile, the International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA) has said to take a plane in China is to dice with death.

Officials quoted Mr. Lin as saying he wanted to escape corruption in China and hijacked the plane after Chinese authorities made it difficult for

## Cambodian army reports new success

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's government army has reported a new victory in its war against the radical Khmer Rouge guerrillas, the capture of a strategic border access point near the country's far north frontier with Thailand.

"All the Khmer Rouge guerrillas have fled towards the border — they left behind some weapons and ammunition," Cambodian army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Ke Kim Yan told Reuters Friday. He said three government soldiers were wounded in the attack.

The situation at Ar Sess was currently quiet, said Cambodia's top military commander.

The key border access point, 300 kilometres north of Phnom Penh was formerly known as U.N. Checkpoint CT-1 and lies close to the border triangle of Laos, Thailand and Cambodia.

There has been no independent confirmation of the government's claim but if true it is another military blow for the increasingly embattled Maoist rebels.

According to the government, more than 3,000 Khmer Rouge have defected to the government side since last August.

After threatening to disrupt the U.N.-organised May elections with violence, the Khmer Rouge has demanded an advisory government role while continuing to wage a low-intensity guerrilla war.

An increase in dry season fighting between the two protagonists has caused a stalemate to political negotiations aimed at accommodating the rebel demands.

On Feb. 5 Cambodian army units captured the strategic Khmer Rouge northern headquarters at Anlong Veng calling it the biggest military success since the holding of the elections.

Government army commanders earlier said that Ar Sess, used as a guerrilla firebase to shell outlying areas of Cham Khsan, was their next military objective after Anlong Veng was secured.

The border access point lies close to the ancient temple of Preah Vihear seized by Khmer Rouge guerrillas last July.

Preah Vihear provinces' governor, General Mean Sarin, told Reuters that after the capture of Ar Sess, the next goal would be the recapture of Preah Vihear Temple.

He said the notorious one-legged guerrilla Commander Ta Mok had fled towards Traipang Kol near the junction of the Cambodian, Lao and Thai borders.

The capture of Ar Sess will relieve pressure on the besieged town of Cham Khsan, 28 kilometres south, and allow hundreds of displaced people to return to their homes, Mr. Sarin said.

While of little military significance, the capture of Preah Vihear Temple by the Khmer Rouge caused severe embarrassment to the government.

Preah Vihear, practically accessible only from Thailand, is Cambodia's best known monument after the fabled 12th century temples of Angkor.

daredevil to fly in Colombia on a stormy night, don't fly in China," said IAPA, which listed eight plane crashes in China in 18 months.

"If China started doing everything right yesterday, the problems could not be solved in 1994 or even by the end of the century," commented IAPA.

The Association said the country's air traffic control system was primitive, qualified pilots and engineers were in short supply, maintenance poor and security not existent.

David Sempler, IAPA's executive director, said figures reveal China had one accident per 100,000 domestic flights compared to one per 200,000 in Colombia and India and one per 250,000 in South Korea.

The association listed the safest major airlines as American Airlines, British Airways, Delta, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines and Southwest.

Safe mid-sized carriers included Ansett Australia, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Canadian Airlines International and All-Nippon.

## Book blows up IRS for fun and profit

NEW YORK (R) — Novice author Bill Branon has the book world beaming and dreaming of huge sales with a first novel about terrorists blowing up the greatest American bureaucracy of them all — the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Never mind that the plot of Let Us Prey doesn't thicken as much as make its occasional appearance or that its characters are as real as "bit" and "ban" comic book figures or that even its author can't explain what is going on.

Getting rid of the taxman is an all-American dream and Branon, furious at the way the IRS hounded one of his sons for back taxes, appears to have tapped into an anger many feel. The prestigious Book of the Month Club grabbed his book as an alternate selection, HarperCollins has put out a first printing of 10,000 — a huge figure for a hardback book — and Sylvester Stallone sent his chauffeur to the bookstore to see if this could be a vehicle worthy of "Rambo."

The plot is all over the map involving hitmen modelled after Branon's sons, a rapist whose initials are IRS and a terrorist leader of an anti-tax revolt who blows up the real IRS's regional offices, when he finally makes his appearance almost halfway through the book. Branon admits, "The book doesn't read sensibly," but defends it as a mood piece out to show anger "in the land."

An avid gambler, ex-navy dentist, intelligence operative, explosives expert and gun-nut, Branon is hitting the talk show circuit to tell the secret of his success — do it all yourself until the big guys take notice.

Court orders release of India's 'bandit queen'

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Supreme Court Friday ordered the release of parole of Phoolan Devi, India's notorious "bandit queen" who was jailed more than a decade ago for the massacre of 22 villagers to avenge her gang rape.

Judges J. S. Verma and P.B. Sawant asked Ms. Devi, held in New Delhi's maximum security Tihar Central Jail, to put up a bond to gain freedom after 11 years in prison.

"We consider it appropriate to release her on parole pending the disposal of applications moved by the state government in various courts for withdrawal of (the) prosecution against her," the judges said. They ordered the New Delhi Police to provide protection to the notorious outlaw after her release.

Family members said she planned to live in the city, rather than go back to her village in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh. Ms. Devi, who is in her early 30s, allegedly murdered the massacre of 22 upper-caste Hindus on Feb. 14, 1981 in the Uttar Pradesh village of Behmai to avenge her rape by men from the village. Police say she was the leader of a bandit gang whose members shouted slogans hailing Devi after gunning down more than two dozen men on the edge of a river, several of them survived. Ms. Devi, who was in police uniform when she reportedly opened fire, was looking for two men who allegedly abducted and murdered her lover and raped her for days before she managed to give them the slip one night.

The cold-blooded killings made her a household name in India and she went on a crime spree which terrorised the Chambal Valley, her exploits attracted worldwide attention and she was the subject of several books and movies.

Bobbitt fathered child out of wedlock

NIAGARA FALLS, New York (AFP) — Blood tests strengthened a paternity case filed against John Bobbitt by a woman who said she dated him a year before his wife cut off his penis. "John, this may be the only child you will ever have. Doesn't he deserve better from a father than lame and false details?" appealed Beatrice Williams Thursday. Ms. Williams held a press conference in Niagara Falls, New York to announce DNA test results which give a 99.9 per cent likelihood that Bobbitt fathered her son, Andrew. It is uncertain yet whether Bobbitt, whose wife Lorena said she cut off his penis for raping her, will be able to have children though doctors did manage to reattach the organ. Mr. Bobbitt's attorney said he might challenge the results and get his own genetics expert to disprove them.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Venables includes Robson in his staff

LONDON (R) — England's new manager Terry Venables named former international captain Bryan Robson in a backroom staff of three for the rest of the season Friday. Alongside Robson, who at 37 still commands a place in Manchester United's first team squad, Venables picked experienced coaches Don Howe and Dave Sexton. The appointments are all part-time and temporary until the end of the season when Venables, who took over from the unsuccessful Graham Taylor last month, will make more permanent plans for the next two years. Venables will have Robson and Howe, coach under 1980 World Cup manager Bobby Robson, at his side when he makes his debut in a friendly international against European champions Denmark at Wembley March 9.

### Harding Olympic doubt

LILLEHAMMER (AFP) — American Tonya Harding, though expected to compete, has a right ankle injury which threatens her Olympic chances. The American figure skating champion seemed to be troubled Friday when landing on her right ankle, which she slightly twisted in Thursday's training. An annoyed Harding, allegedly involved in an attempt to cripple rival Nancy Kerrigan Jan. 6, hit the side of the rink several times while talking to her coaches.

### Barbecue at Olympic flame failed

LILLEHAMMER (R) — Barbecue buffets have been told by organisers to stop grilling sausages over the Olympic flame. Lillehammer games official Odd Ustad said Friday security had been tightened around the flame, burning at the top of a 20-metre high tower at Olympia park, after reports of illicit "danger" barbecues at dead of night. "We heard that two or three young guys grilled sausages on the flame one night," he said. "We're not sure how they did it. They must have had spears 20 metres long, I suppose. What we do know is that there will be no more grill parties at the flame. We've tightened security round there so it can't happen again." In 1988 at Calgary, sports fans and games volunteers used the Olympic flame to cook hot dogs and toast marshmallows.

### Coloradan, Australian win Empire State run up

NEW YORK (AP) — A Colorado chemist and an Australian high school teacher won the men's and women's divisions of the Empire State building run up Thursday. The chemist, Darrin Eisman of Golden, Colo., dashed up 80 flights of stairs in 9 minutes, 37 seconds. The teacher, triathlete Belinda Soszyn, 39, of Bangor, Australia, made the trip in 11 minutes, 57 seconds. The 17th annual run up featured 127 participants from eight nations and 15 states. This year's run up was limited to 80 flights because of a construction project at the 86th floor observatory. Bringing up the rear was Chico Scimone of Taormina, Sicily, in 23 minutes, 20 seconds. He is 82 years old. The run up is sponsored by the Empire State building and the New York Road Runners Club.

### 1st American skiing medalist dead

SUN VALLEY, Idaho (AP) — Gretchen Fraser, the first American to win an Olympic gold medal for skiing, died Thursday. She was 75. A spokeswoman for the Sun Valley Co. said Fraser died of natural causes at the World River Medical Centre after being taken there Wednesday. "She was cross-country skiing with a friend just a week ago," spokeswoman Shannon Besoyan said. Fraser won the gold medal for the special slalom at the 1948 games in St. Moritz, Switzerland. The event is known today as the giant slalom. Fraser also took the silver medal in the combined slalom and downhill. She had lived in Sun Valley with her husband, Don, who was a member of the United States Alpine team and won a gold medal in the Pan Am games in Chile in 1936. He died in January 1993 at age 8.

### Vasco and Fluminense investment pays off

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — The million dollar investments made by Vasco and Fluminense to purchase state of Rio players have paid off. Both teams stand atop their divisions in the Rio league at the Carnival break with undefeated records through three rounds. Vasco sought national team defender Ricardo Rocha from Santos and the sensational midfielder Denner from the Sao Paulo Portuguese a sward. Denner and Vasco striker Valdir are being considered by manager Carlos Alberto Pereira for spots on the World Cup team. Fluminense bought veteran defender Branco from Southampton Brazil's Gremio, and former Brazilian team starting midfielder Luiz Henrique from Monaco of the French league.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHIRAF & TAMARA HIRSH  
(1993) World Bridge Services, Inc.

4-4 OR 5-3 FIT?

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH  
♠ K 5 6  
♥ A K J 4  
♦ A K J 4  
♣ Q 8 6

EAST  
♠ A 5 4  
♥ Q 9 8  
♦ Q 10 8 7  
♣ 9 8 7 6 4

SOUTH  
♠ Q 4 10 3 2  
♥ K 5 2  
♦ A K 10 2  
♣ A K 10 2

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Leftist leader arrested in Tunisia

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian authorities have arrested Hama Hammami, fugitive leader of the banned Communist Workers' Party (POCT), official sources said Friday. Mr. Hammami, arrested last week in the coastal town of Sousse, was sentenced in absentia by a court in the southern city of Gabes last year to 57 months in jail on charges of setting up an illegal association and spreading false information. Defence lawyers said he would appear in court on Feb. 23 to answer charges of rebellion, attacking the police officer who arrested him and falsifying an identity card. The defence also plans to challenge the Gabes verdict. The official sources also said lawyer Abdul Rahman Al Hani had been arrested and charged with constitution of an illegal association and spreading of defamatory and false information. Mr. Hani was arrested on Friday and accused of setting up a hitherto unknown group called Talaei Al Wahdah (vanguards of unity). His son, Ziad, arrested at the same time, was freed on Monday.

## 3 shot at Sinn Fein Belfast office

BELFAST (R) — Protestant gunmen shot and wounded three workers on Friday in the second attack in a week on the Belfast headquarters of Sinn Fein, Irish Republic Army's (IRA) political wing. The outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters (UFF), a shadowy group which says it is fighting attempts to unite Northern and Ireland, claimed responsibility for the attack. It took place as Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds was flying to London for weekend talks with his British counterpart, John Major, about an Anglo-Irish peace initiative to end 25 years of conflict in Northern Ireland. Police said one worker, who was on a ladder, was shot in the stomach and legs. The other two were hit in the legs and all three were taken to a hospital. The attack was mounted the day after the IRA ambushed a police vehicle in Belfast, killing a policeman, the first security officer to die in the Northern Ireland conflict this year.

## Gang warfare claims 7 in St. Petersburg

MOSCOW (R) — Police discovered seven bullet-riddled corpses wrapped in canvas and dumped in a Mercedes limousine before dawn on Friday in Russia's gangster-ridden second city, St. Petersburg. Itar-Tass news agency quoted police as saying they stumbled on the bodies after stopping a small Zhiguli car which was towing the luxury Mercedes through the streets of the old imperial capital at three a.m. (midnight GMT). The massacre victims were lying in the back and boot of the Mercedes, with a pistol-toting Tajik sitting in front. An unemployed 20-year-old man was driving the scruffy Zhiguli and the boss of a St. Petersburg commercial firm was in the passenger seat. Russia's new capitalist businesses are widely seen as fronts for mafia gangs. TASS said an investigation was now underway into the latest killings in St. Petersburg, a city of once-glamorous palaces now decaying beside polluted canals. Its streets are packed with sleazy salesmen, sinister hustles and nervous police.

## Germany halts trial against Latvia

MUENSTER, Germany (R) — The trial of a World War II Latvian police commander, accused of Nazi war crimes, was suspended on Friday because of the defendant's poor health. Boleslav Malkovskis, who was sentenced to death in absentia by the Soviet Union, denied during a four-year trial in the German city of Muenster that he had taken part in the massacre of 278 people in Nazi-occupied Latvia 52 years ago. Malkovskis had also been accused of ordering the hanging of a Latvian Jew. Presiding Judge Heinz Bernd Lange said the trial against the 90-year-old Latvian exile was effectively over after medical evidence indicated the defendant would probably suffer a heart attack if the case continued.

## 'Russians could detect Stealth bomber'

MOSCOW (R) — A senior Russian military official was quoted on Friday as saying his forces' radar would have no problem detecting the U.S. B-2 Stealth bomber, hailed by its makers as the "invisible aircraft." First Deputy Defence Minister Andrei Kokoshin told the liberal newspaper Sevodnya he saw, for Russia, two options to the advanced and expensive technology used in building the B-2. Low-flying cruise missiles which evade radar were "cheaper and preferable." At the same time "it is possible by cheaper methods to make normal aircraft more invisible (to radar) and considerably increase their combat effectiveness," Mr. Kokoshin said. The black-bodied, multirole heavy B-2 which resembles a bat wing, has been praised by the U.S. Air Force as a dramatic leap in aircraft technology because of its design, which is fuel-efficient and barely detectable by enemy radar. It had been vaunted as the most sophisticated weapon in the U.S. nuclear arsenal.

## Diplomat denies attack on Kim Jong-Il

BANGKOK (AFP) — The North Korean ambassador to Thailand Friday strongly denied reports that Kim Jong-Il, son of North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung, had been the victim of a recent attack. "It's completely groundless," the ambassador, Li Do-Sop, said as he left a meeting on Asian security here. "It is completely imaginary as our people deeply respect our dear leader very highly," he added. The ambassador's denial came after a South Korean opposition leader — citing unnamed "foreign" sources — Thursday alleged that the younger Kim had suffered serious injuries as a result of an attack. The reports followed the absence of the North Korean number two at celebrations for his birthday in Pyongyang. Kim Jong-Il, 52, is widely seen as the heir to his 81-year-old father, who has ruled the communist north since the regime was founded in 1948.

## UAE steps up crackdown on begging

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to crack down on begging in the fasting month of Ramadan, in a bid to protect the country's image. Police have stepped up patrols in public places while municipalities are sending inspectors to mosques and other places to arrest beggars, officials said. "Begging gives a negative image of UAE society. It also annoys people during Ramadan," said Obaid Al Shamsi, director of administrative affairs at Dubai Municipality. "We have intensified our efforts to curb this phenomenon as beggars usually increase their activities during Ramadan. We consider them as violators of the law and they should be deported," he told Al-Bayan newspaper. Begging is banned in the UAE, where the per capita income of around \$18,000 is among the highest in the world. Ramadan, which this year started last week, is the time that police step up the fight against beggars. The authorities say many expatriates, especially Asians, come in on visitors' visas to cash in on Ramadan, when devout Muslims are called up to give alms to the poor. A crackdown in 1993 netted 285 beggars in Dubai and 145 in Sharjah. Around 417 beggars were also arrested in the two emirates in 1992, and 517 in 1991, according to official figures.

## Death of Israeli builder an accident

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The death of an Israeli worker on a building site in the southern city of Ashdod on Thursday was an accident and not murder, a police spokesman said. Police had earlier said a Palestinian worker battered him to death with a brick. But an investigation found that the Israeli, an emigrant from the former Soviet Union, was knocked down by a block which fell off an apartment under construction, the spokesman said.

## Bosnian Serbs pledge to abide by NATO deadline; U.N. awaits proof

LUKAVICA (AFP) — Bosnian Serbs pledged on Friday to withdraw or place under U.N. control all heavy weapons around Sarajevo ahead of a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) deadline, but U.N. officials said they were still waiting for concrete evidence that the Serbs were carrying out their promise.

As pressure built up ahead of the ultimatum, which expires at midnight GMT on Sunday, Russia said it wanted an international conference on Bosnia to be held next week. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, speaking here after talks with U.N. special envoy for the former Yugoslavia Yasushi Akashi, said all Serb heavy weapons around Sarajevo would be put under "effective" U.N. control by Saturday midnight (2300 GMT), beating the NATO deadline by 25 hours.

It was the most unequivocal statement yet by the Serb leader that his forces would comply fully with the ultimatum to pull heavy artillery beyond a 20-kilometre Sarajevo exclusion zone, place it under U.N. supervision, or face attack.

## 13 Britons detained in Somali row

LONDON (Agencies) — Thirteen Britons have been held since Wednesday in Hargeisa, northwest Somalia, by armed locals in a dispute over wages, the Foreign Office said here.

The British mine-clearance firm Rimfire International, which employs both Britons and Somalis and is working on a United Nations project, said the men were being held because of a disagreement involving Somalia and the U.N. umbrella organisation UNOSOM, which sets wages and conditions.

A United Nations report said 50 foreign workers were being confined to residences.

"This is a complicated dispute involving local political factors. Rimfire International and our contractors are caught in the middle of a difficult situation which is not of our making," company director Greg Wales said.

Rimfire operates in war-torn areas and former trouble spots around the world, clearing mines and loose explosives in order that people can move back to the areas from refugee camps. It works closely with the U.N. and the U.N. High Commission for Refugees.

In the past year in northwest Somalia the company has removed 100,000 mines from one million square metres of land, as part of a \$2.5 million (\$3.1 million) annual contract.

U.N. spokesman George Bennett said local leaders are "having trouble with demobilised militiamen and the Egele clan which controls the airport," press association said.

The Foreign Office spokesman said the dispute arose late on Wednesday after a number of Rimfire's Somalia's employees became angry during a row over wage payments.

The men are being held in a compound in Hargeisa, he said.

A week ago, two British lawmakers were abducted by clan gunmen while inspecting aid projects in nearby Erigavo. They were released within 24 hours after a local doctor intervened.

Hargeisa is in the self-proclaimed Somaliland republic in northwest Somalia.

"We have been withdrawing already convoys and convoys, and we will withdraw even more," said Mr. Karadzic. "Those which can't be withdrawn because of snow will be placed under full effective control of the U.N. without any reservations."

"Tomorrow at 2400 regardless of other deadlines, all heavy weapons will be under efficient control that is envisaged by U.N. regulations."

Mr. Akashi said that from Saturday armed troops of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) will be controlling seven sites where heavy weapons will be grouped.

"Time is very short to make tangible and substantial progress, but I think we are on the way," he commented after meeting Mr. Karadzic. "We have to see whether these (...) intentions will be translated into reality."

Others, including White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers, also maintained a cautious note on Friday, despite earlier comments by an UNPROFOR spokesman that "very significant withdrawal of Serb forces" was under way.

A senior U.N. officer in

Sarajevo, who asked not to be named, said only 15 Serb military trucks were seen leaving a Serb-held barracks on Wednesday night and no convoys quit the region on Thursday ahead of Mr. Karadzic's pledge.

Earlier UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Pernod said Bosnian government and rebel Serb military commanders had agreed on three new control sites for grouping heavy weapons, two for Serb forces and one for the Muslim-dominated Bosnian army.

However, the new sites accord had not yet been enforced and no new weapons had been handed in Friday, he added.

"It is a positive step but the three-day deadline is still valid and both parties have to be convinced of that and respect their undertakings. Otherwise there will be airstrikes," warned Mr. Pernod.

Serbia's vow came after a Russian peace initiative earlier this week, during a visit to former Yugoslavia by Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaly Churkin, a special emissary of president Boris Yeltsin.

As well as securing the Serbian promise, Russia also said it would send extra troops to Sarajevo to help monitor the arms handover.

The United Nations said on Friday that more than 400 Russian troops had already begun to move from Croatia towards Sarajevo.

Back in Moscow on Friday, Mr. Churkin said he was "certain" that the Bosnian Serbs would meet their promise which he claimed as a major Russian success.

"It is the Russian initiative which has allowed a relaxation of the (recent) crisis around Sarajevo," he said.

Stray "terrorist actions," a Muslim advance or a possible NATO policy of trying to bomb and talk at the same time could still pose difficulties for a political settlement, he added.

During a visit to Athens, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said countries including Britain, France, Germany and the United States had been informed of an "initiative by President Boris Yeltsin" to hold a peace conference next week, but the place and level remained to be settled.

## Lawyer says colleague in New York bombing trial undermined his client

NEW YORK (AFP) — A defence lawyer accused the lawyer of another World Trade Centre bombing suspect Thursday of doing more damage to his client's case than the prosecution.

Austin Campriello called for a mistrial, saying Robert Precht's closing arguments Wednesday in Mohammad Salameh's defence implicated his own client, Ahmad Ajaj.

Mr. Precht said 26-year-old Salameh became involved in the bombing after being led astray by fugitive Ramzi Yousef who masterminded the plot.

It was the first time a defence lawyer for any of the four had admitted that their client was connected to the blast which killed six and injured more than 1,000 last February.

Mr. Yousef was also accused of hatching the plot by prosecutor Henry Deppippo, who pointed out that bomb-making manuals were found in his luggage.

Mr. Ajaj entered the country on the same flight as Mr. Yousef and was thus linked to the bombing, according to Mr.

Campriello.

In my view, Mr. Precht did more damage to Mr. Ajaj in the first six minutes of his summation than Mr. Deppippo did in the six hours of his summation," said Mr. Campriello.

His request for a mistrial was denied.

Meanwhile, another defence attorney suggested in his closing argument that the bombing could be linked to the Gulf war, noting that Mr. Yousef and another fugitive, Abdul Yasin, had both fled to Iraq after the blast.

The United States has put out a \$2 million reward for the return of Mr. Yasin and Mr. Yousef.

The prosecution wrapped up its case Tuesday, saying the motive for the attack was as clear as the evidence against four on trial.

"They did it to send a terrorist message and they told you what that message was," said assistant U.S. Attorney Henry Deppippo, referring to a letter sent to the New York Times blaming U.S. aid to Israel for

the attack.

Mr. Deppippo said defendant sent the letter and also identified him as the man who left a message on a New York Daily News answering machine saying the "Liberation Army Fifth Battalion" claimed responsibility for the Feb. 26, 1993 bombing.

Mr. Salameh, Mr. Ajaj and the other defendants, Nidal Ayyad and Mahmoud Abu Halima, have pleaded not guilty to charges they planted a bomb in the twin towers in Manhattan.

If convicted, the four could be sentenced to life in prison.

In closing argument lawyer Precht appeared to admit that there was a bombing plot and that his client was involved in it — but as an unwitting dupe.

The lawyer argued that his client was manoeuvred by an "evil genius" who is a fugitive in the bombing case.

"In fact, Mohammad Salameh was terribly misled, terribly manipulated... by a person who came into this country with a single mission, to destroy American targets," Mr. Precht said.

## Gamaa claims attack on Nile ship

CAIRO (Agencies) — An underground Islamic group on Friday said its militants opened fire on a Nile cruise ship taking foreign tourists through the troubled southern Egyptian province of Assiut.

The Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah told AFP in a statement that the attack on Wednesday was its "seventh and last operation to avenge the seven" militants killed in Cairo earlier this month.

The Interior Ministry said here late Thursday that the shots were not aimed at the tourists and that peasants "fired shots into the air to protect their crops as is usual" in the region.

The incident occurred near Manafut, 350 kilometres south of Cairo.

Security forces based in Om Al Qusur immediately returned fire, the ministry said.

The crew of the ship said that the shots shattered the windows of a cabin, but hurt neither the crew nor any of the

17 tourists of different nationalities who were sailing from Aswan to Cairo.

Militants have carried out about 10 attacks against tourist boats in Assiut province since October 1992 without causing any casualties.

The Gamaa urged tourists and foreign investors to leave the country after the Cairo police said that killed seven militants on Feb. 1.

On Wednesday the Romanian Foreign Ministry said 20 Romanians working at a cement factory would move from the Assiut region to the northern city of Alexandria, following a gun attack on their bus near Assiut on Monday.

The engineers were unhurt, but the next day they received threats from the Gamaa saying the shooting was only a warning.

Almost 300 people have died since the fundamentalists began their violent anti-government campaign two years ago, and the money-

spinning tourist industry has been brought to its knees.

Court sources meanwhile confirmed that three soldiers linked to Islamic militants have been condemned to death and three others sentenced to hard labour for plotting to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak.

The sources said the six soldiers had planted explosives at the airport in Sidi Barrani in December and planned to detonate the bombs during a visit by Mr. Mubarak.

Sid Barrani's military court passed the death sentence against a second lieutenant in the reserves, Midhat Tahawi, and two conscripts, Hamada Mohammad Lotfi and Mohammad Ahmad Said Saleh on Wednesday.

One of the conscripts was among the seven Islamic militants killed in a police raid on the Cairo district of Zawayi Al Hamra in early February, according to an informed source. The other two appeared in court.

## Trilateral committee meets in Washington

WASHINGTON (Agencies) The U.S. Jordanian-Israeli trilateral working group on economic cooperation met last week in Washington and decided to focus on areas where the U.S. could help in economic projects.

The U.S. State Department issued a statement late Wednesday on the meeting. It said:

The third meeting of the U.S.-Jordanian-Israeli trilateral economic committee was held in Washington on Feb. 16-17, 1994.

The group met in plenary, and continued its work in two sub-groups: one on trade, banking and finance, and one on economic cooperation and development.

Among the results of this trilateral:

— The participants agreed that this forum should complement the peace process by focussing on areas where the U.S. can be the catalyst for meaningful agreement and action.

Jordan and Israel will follow up as soon as possible on outstanding issues related to interim banking agreements for the West Bank and Gaza.

— There was certain progress in discussion of cooperative development of the Jordan Rift Valley and the Eilat-Aqaba area, including the establishment of a mechanism for future identification and planning of projects.

— Reciprocal trade arrangements were discussed in detail. The issues expected to be discussed at the talks include a draft pact regulating the reopening of two Jordanian bank branches, closed in the occupied Gaza Strip since the 1967 Middle East war.

"We hope to be able to reach a memorandum of understanding on reopening our banks in Gaza," one official told Reuters in Amman last week.

"We are also going to discuss the flow of trade between Jordan and the Palestinian self-rule areas and ideas for the development of the Jordan Valley in the post-peace (agreement) era."

The economic talks were agreed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres last September. They are separate from the peace talks between Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon that began in November 1991.

At their last meeting in December, the sides signed an agreement on reopening over 20 Jordanian bank branches that had operated in the West Bank before Israel occupied it in 1967.

A separate accord is needed for the two bank branches in the Gaza Strip because they operated under different rules since the area was administered by Egypt until Israel seized it in 1967.

The Gaza branches belonged to the Arab Bank and Arab Land Bank, which also have branches in the West Bank.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) gave its blessing to reopening the branches last month when it signed an accord on links with Amman during the three-year period of Palestinian self-rule before the final status of the occupied territories is resolved.

A joint Jordan-PLO committee is to be named to coordinate financial policy in the occupied territories and supervise banking.

## COLUMN

## Balladur orders ministers to obey highway code

PARIS (AFP) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur has ordered his ministers to obey the highway code and stop using sirens and flashing lights in official motorcade.

Mr. Balladur first told people the "irritation" of motorcades and use them only when "strictly necessary," a circular dated Jan. 3, Mr. Balladur also said motorcades "should respect the highway code."

Mr. Balladur first expressed his dislike for official processions when he came to power in April last year, but their use has come back. He ordered an end to use of sirens and flashing lights "even by ministers" and referred to the "justified exasperation" of the population.

Clinton sees red with conjunctivitis

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton painted himself as a poster-boy for National Health Care Tuesday, saying a case of conjunctivitis had his swollen left eye in the pink.

"I look like a guy who needs health care today and I do," Mr. Clinton said. "Thank goodness I've got it," he joked to a group of

Americans as he pitched his plan, which would guarantee access to health care to all U.S. citizens. More than 30 million people in the United States have no health insurance, said Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Clinton has made the issue the domestic focus of his administration. Spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said Mr. Clinton's condition, commonly known as pink eye, was being treated with antibiotic drops.

Mandela, Gullit star in Dutch fund raising show

HILVERSUM, Netherlands (AP) — Dutch footballer Ruud Gullit gave ANC leader Nelson Mandela his European Footballer of the Year trophy Thursday night as a mark of esteem before a nationwide Dutch audience.

Mr. Mandela, 75, was in the Netherlands to attend a televised fund-raiser aimed at raising voter awareness in the upcoming South African elections, the first free, multiracial elections in the nation's history.

Mr. Mandela, who is part Surinamese, has been a vocal supporter of the anti-apartheid struggle in the Netherlands. When he was named Europe's Footballer of the Year in 1987 Gullit dedicated the prize to Mr. Mandela, who at the time was still behind bars in South Africa.

In presenting his trophy to Mr. Mandela, Gullit, a former captain of the Dutch national soccer side, said: "This is an emotional occasion for me. I am very happy to finally have this chance."

Mr. Mandela, who appeared moved by the gesture, saluted a cheering television studio crowd with the trophy like a victor.

During the two-hour telethon Mr. Mandela was frequently pictured smiling, a Dutch entertainer appeared on behalf of the get-out-the-vote effort in South Africa's black townships. The broadcast was expected to raise more than a million dollars.

Japanese losing confidence in their country

TOKYO (AFP) — The Japanese are losing confidence in their country's future, with only 37.9 per cent believing it is heading in the right direction, a government survey showed.

This compares with 46.2 per cent in 1990, said the Economic Planning Agency survey, cited by the Jiji Press Agency. Women in their twenties are the happiest while those aged between 20 and 30 are the most dissatisfied, with the general morosity blamed on the country's economic difficulties.

Nevertheless 51.9 per cent of Japanese still say they are satisfied, compared with 53.5 per cent when the survey was taken in 1990.

What upsets the Japanese are low pay and the perceived inequalities of the tax system. The survey was carried out in June last year among 5,000 people aged 15 to 74 and drew responses from 4,172.